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THE

CHRONICLE OF PERTH;

A REGISTER

OF

REMARKABLE OCCURRENCES,

CHIEFLY CONNECTED WITH THAT CITY,

FROM THE YEAR 1210 TO 1668.

PRINTED AT EDINBURGH:

M.DCCC.XXXI.

PRESENTED

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M.DCCC.XXXI.

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THE CHRONICLE OF PERTH has been printed from a Manuſcript purchaſed by the Faculty of Advocates at a ſale of books which had belonged to the late Rev. James Scott, author of the Lives of the Scottiſh Reformers, and of a valuable Diſſertation upon the Gowrie Conſpiracy. Although uſually deſignated as "Mercer's Chronicle," there ſeems no ſufficient authority for its being ſo denominated, as, from internal evidence, the MS. muſt have been written at different intervals, and by different perſons.

John Mercer, who, for a conſiderable time, was Town-Clerk of Perth, unqueſtionably appears to have been the poſſeſſor of the volume containing this Chronicle, as towards the end of it a few entries, principally of deaths, occur in his hand-writing; but beyond this portion, he ſeems to have had no further title to the authorſhip.

Part of the volume has apparently been uſed as a regiſter of burials. This portion, however, has been mutilated; a circumſtance to be leſs regretted, as the names ſtill preſerved are of no particular intereſt.

In printing the Chronicle, the Editor has carefully adhered to the text; and the only extent to which he deemed it expedient to interfere, was in removing the contractions, and altering the arrangement; and as the chronological order had been entirely diſregarded, the writers having evidently noted down their information without any regard to dates, the latter change appeared to be indiſpenſably neceſſary. It is alſo proper to mention, that in one or two inſtances ſome miſtakes have crept into the MS.; but as the Editor had no means of correcting them beyond conjectural emendation, he thought it moſt prudent to leave them as they were.

Mr Scott's tranſcripts of the Kirk Seſſion Records of Perth having alſo been purchaſed by the Faculty of Advocates, a few extracts have been printed in the Appendix, as illuſtrative of the habits and cuſtoms of the citizens of Perth, and as furniſhing a fair eſtimate of the ſtate of ſociety during the period to which they refer. The Editor has alſo added an Examination of the ſuppoſed Royal deſcent of John Earl of Gowrie, from Queen Margaret, the widow of James the IV. and ſiſter of Henry the VIII., which, he ventures to think, will, from the documents referred to, be deemed concluſive. As the execution of Lord Sanquhar, whoſe principal reſidence was in Perth, is referred to in the Chronicle, perhaps the Notice relative to it may not be devoid of intereſt.

THE CHRONICLE OF PERTH.

King William wes the lxxxiij King of Scottis : quha fowndit the burgh of perth, in the ȝeir of God 1210 ȝeiris, and gaiff findrie previleges to the ſamen. He rang xlix ȝeiris, deceiſſit at ſtriviling, in the ȝeir of God 1214 ȝeiris, buried in aberbrothok.

Vpoun 12 day of May 1363 ȝeiris, Alexander abercrumbie off murthlie ſet ane tak to Jhone merſer, burgeſs of perth, of the lands of vbny within the baronie of murthlie, cum heriotis, marchetis, et merchiamentis, for the ſpace of aucht ȝeiris, for the ſoume of ffourtie punds Sterling money, for releiff of the baronie of murthlie, payit ad fabricationem pontis de perthe.

The foundation of the Charterhouſe beſide perth, be King James the firſt in anno 1430 ȝeiris, quha deceiſſit in anno 1436, on the xx day of ffebruar, and his quene Joanna foundatrix thereof, deceiſſit in July 1445 ȝeiris.

fflowden vas in September, on the lettir lady day in anno 1513 ȝeiris. The duik of albanie was governor to King James the firſt, in anno 1314 ȝeiris.

Concord maid at perth betuix hwntlie and erroll, the fifth day of December 1519 ȝeiris.

Roſlyne more in September 1523 ȝeiris.

The deir Symmer 1525 ȝeiris quhen the bow of maill gaiff 26 ſhillings 8 pennies, Alexander blair than proveſt of perth.

The Seage of Tamtallown the xi of October 1528 ȝeiris.

The execution of andro Cars be ane affyſe in perth, the tent day of februar 1528 ȝeiris.

Mallochis peſt in perth in September 1537 ȝeiris, Jhone denyng than proveſt.

Quene Margaret mother to King James the fyft, deceiſit on Sanct munokis day in Methwen 1541 ȝeiris, buriet in the Charter hous beſyde perth, the kingis majeſtie, nobilitie, and barronis being preſent.

Gilbert moncreiffis execution 1542 ȝeiris.

Faulay at hallowmes 1541 ȝeiris.

King James the fyft deceiſſit on the 25 day of November 1542 ȝeiris, on Sanct Katharenis day.

Solen Mos at anderſmes 1542 ȝeiris.

Quene Marie dochter to James the fyft, borne in Striviling the 8 day of [december] in anno 1542 ȝeiris.

The execution of James hunter, Robert lambe, James ronaldſone, and his ſpouſe, at perth in Januar in Sanct pawlis day, 1543 ȝeiris.

The conflict, or battell of the brig of tay, on the magdalene day the 22 day of Julij 1544.

David beattoun, cardinall, ſlane in his chieff hous in Sanct Andrews the 29 day of Maij 1546.

Pinkie on the lattir lady day the 3 of September 1547 ȝeiris.

Quene Marie paſt to france in auguſt 1548 ȝeiris: in july preceding come to Scotland six thousand frenche men of wear.

The reformation of the Charter hous & freiris beſide perth, the 10 day of May 1560 ȝeiris.

The bwrnyng of Scone, on twyſday efter midſomer day the 27 of Junii 1560 zeiris.

The queens marriage, with our Soverane King James the Saxt father 1565 zeiris.

King James the Saxtis happie birth, the 19th day of Junij 1566 zeiris and coranatioun at Striviling 1567.

The Katt harrow in perth the 22 day of maij 1567.

The down falling of the bridge of almond, the 23 day of November 1567 zeiris.

The Queenis paſſing furth of lochlewin, on Sonday the [2] of Maij 1568 zeiris.

The read of langſyde beſyde Glaſquhow, on the [13] day of Maij 1568 zeiris.

The read at beger, the 16th day of Junij 1568 zeiris.

The gude Regent is ſlauchtered at lynlythgow the 23 day of Jannuar 1569 [70].

The vynnyng of dumbarton, wn the day of merche 1570 zeiris.

The parliament haldin in the Cannogeit, the 14 day of Maij 1571 zeiris. Regent the erle of lennox, and his ſlauchter at Striviling the feird day of September 1571 zeiris.

The departure of the erle of mar regent [October] 1572 zeiris.

The election of the erle of mortoun regent at Edinburgh in November 1572 zeiris. The execution of the Archbiſhop of Sanct Androis.

The randering of the caſtell of edinburgh, grange being capitane thereof on the 28 day of Maij 1573 zeiris. His executioun, his brotheris, moſman, cokie on the thrid day of Auguſt 1573 eiris.

The firſt down falling of twa bowis of the brig of tay, and off lewis wark, be innundatioun of Water, on the 20 day of december 1573 zeiris at midnyght.

The departour of the erle off athoil in apryle 1579 zeiris.

The randering of hamilton & draffin, in apryle 1579 ȝeiris.

The marriage betwixt the erle of athoill and the erle of gouries dochter [24 Januar] 1579.

The entrie of the Worthie and nobill King James the Saxt within perth the 28 day of Maij 1580.

Mr John row departed, miniſter at perth in the [15]80 ȝeir of God [October 16.]

Mr Patrick galloway miniſter, admitted thairto 25 of apryle 1581 ȝeiris; he tuik his woyage to be miniſter to his maieſtie the 11 of februar 1589 ȝeiris.

The erle of Morton regent, beheadit at edinburgh.

The dounfalling of fyve bows of the brig of tay, on the 14 day of Januar 1582 ȝeiris.

The Juſtice air halden at perth, be King James the Saxt the 6 of Julij 1582 ȝeiris.

Peſt in perth the 24 day of September 1584 ȝeiris, continewit to Auguſt 1585 ȝeiris quharin at the pleſore of God, departed this lyff, fourteen hundred and twenty ſeven perſons ȝoung and auld therby.

The entrie of the erllis of Mar and Angus in Striviling, againſt his maieſtie, at palm Sondie 1585.

His Sacred maieſties marriage in denmark be my lord mariſchall, ambaſſador, the 20 day of Auguſt 1589.

Thair arryval at leithe the firſt of May 1590 and crownit Quene the 17th of the ſame monethe. Her entrie to perth the 23 of Junii 1591.*

A plague among the beſtiall 1590.

The admiſione of Mr Johne malcolme to be miniſter at perth, be impoſitione of the handis of Mr William ryude, Mr Archibald moncrieff,

* Another entry of a similar nature occurs towards the foot of the page: "King "James the Saxt his blessed arryval at leyth with his nobill quene Anna dochter to "the King of Denmark the first of May 1590 yeiris."

Mr Alexander ȝoung and Mr John abercrombie, and there after tuik the bailies counſall and elders be the hand. Mr Patrick Galloway preachit that day. He deceiſſit miniſter of perth wpone the Sext day of October in anno 1634 ȝeiris, ſua he was miniſter , buried the 8 day thereafter. He taucht on Sonday befoir none the 28 of September preceding in eodem anno, his executouris cravit ane an, bot gott nane, he was ane nakit ſtipendiar.

June 1592. The read of faulkland be the erll of bothwall quha aſſaileit the King. The toun of perth went down for his defence in feir of weir.

Wpoun the 16th of Auguſt 1592 ȝeiris, the laird of clackmannan tuik william inglis, decone of the hammermen, and Jhone baſtlie, decone of the wrechtis, comyng from dundie, captives into his hows of gaſkenhall. The town of perth mair raiſchelie na vyſlie, onvilling to abyde the indignitie, that ſamen nicht with all diligence paſt to the ſaid gaſkenhall in armes, releivit thair nechbours, and brocht the lard with thame to perth. They vair therefter agreit vpoun the townis large cherges. The lard remainit, not being a frie man in [15] 93 ȝeiris.

The clerk of perth, ſir henrie elder, departit this lyfe being eighty two ȝeiris of age the firſt of November 1592.

Henrie frederik prince of Scotland borne in Streviling, the [19] day of [februar] 1593 [—4] ȝeiris.

Jhone erle of athoil, deceiſit in perth, on the penult day of Auguſt 1594 ȝeiris. Conwoyit honorablie to dunkeld and buried there the 11 of September therefter. The Quenes maieſtie being in perth, in william hallis chamber, beneath the croce, behalding the convoy of the corps.

Mr Williame couper admittit miniſter at perth the fyft of October 1585, be impoſition of the handis of Mr william rynd, Archibald moncrief, and James herring. Mr Patrick galloway preachit. [His] ſtipend onlie firſt four hundred merks and twenty poundis with his hous maill. And

wpone the fourt day of October 1612 ȝeiris he wes maid and conſecrat biſhop of galloway at Glaſgow. The firſt of November 1615, he wes tranſportet fra perth to the chappel royal efter he had been 30 ȝeiris miniſter at perth, and upon the 25th of februar 1618, he departit this Lyffe, and it was thocht for greiff that the wyffes of edinburgh com in to him, and ſchewe to him his awin bukis aganes frieris buikis.

Elizabeth princeſs off Scotland borne in dunfermling, the 10 of auguſt 1596 ȝeiris.

Ane great number of witſhes brint, through all the partis of this realme in June 1597 ȝeiris.

Ane earthquak the 23 of Julij 1597 ȝeiris.

The peſt in leithe and edinburgh in Auguſt 1597.

Ane truble betuix certaine of the Servands of the drummonds, and Oliver Young, than ane of the bailȝies of perth within the hie gait of the ſaid burgh, quhan the greateſt number of the perſewaris leap the tounis valls, and ſo few number of them as remainit come to the tolbuith on ſetterday the 27 Auguſt 1597 ȝeiris. The agrement was made in the ſouth inch, on wedenſday the firſt day off September therefter following.

December 17. 1597. The uproar betuix the King and the kirk.

The eclips of the ſone on ſetterday, callit the mirk ſetterday 25. februar 1597 [—8] at half hour to 10 in the morning.

March 21. 1597 [—8.] The countes of montrois, dame Jeane drummond, convoyed through perth to aberuthven.

Apryll 5. 1598. The duck of holſtein, brother to the quene, come to perth, and receiuit a banquet fra the toun be his majeſties direction, and conwoyit be 100 hors men of the town, to aberuthen, and receawit be Tullibardin.

April 16. Being gude fryday, Henrie adamſone dene of gilde ſlaine be Thomas peblis and wes buried on peax [paſch?] day. The execution

of Thomas peblis for the ſlauchter of the ſaid unquhile henrie, on tuyſday the penult of May 1598 at the mercat croce.

—— 17. The erllis of huntlie and hamilton wer maid marqueſiſs.

Sept. 9. The Witches brunt in the ſouthe inche betuix the buttis, callit Jonet Robertſone, Marioun M'Cauvſs and beſſie Irland.

The fiſche mercat wes remowit fra ye ſchoar hed, to the ſouth yait port be act of counſall.

The quhyte blaſtit in anno 1598.

Nov. The toun began to repair the new kirk in wallis and wandows.

Jan. 9. 1598 [—9]. The toune begane thair voluntar contributioun, for reparatioun of the brige of perth, and left in auguſt 1600.

Feb. 16. The ſlauchter of william hey, ſone to the gudeman of gourdie, in andro gibis hous in the kirkgait, be the laird of craighall rettray, and his complices, Thomas Lafreis chyrurgione wes thair quha ſufferit for it.

1599. Mr Patrick ſtewart brother to my lord Innermay, wes excommunicat for papiſtrae and defectioun fra the fayth.

Nov. 21. The ȝoung laird of balthiok, and mr william Row, miniſter at Kynnoull, and Laurence blair, wer tane captiwe by my lord ſanquhar at kinroſs, [quho] careit thame to ſanquhar, and detenit thame thair ſyxtene dayis.

Dec. — The new calculatioune and change of the ȝeir of god, wes publiſhed to begin on the firſt of Januar, and not on the xxv day of marche, as it wes of befoir.

Ane great dead amongis the pepill in anno 1599.

May 20. 1600. The erll of gowrie come to perth, efter ſewin ȝeiris peregrenation in other cuntreis.

June 28. The execution of david drummond, for the ſlauchter of george ramſayis man, the firſt juſtice court that ewer John erll of gowrie held efter his returne.

Aug. 5. The ſlauchter of John erll of gowrie, and mr Alexander his

brother, in the erllis awin ludgeing in perth, be John ramſay and dochter herreis, his majeſties ſeruandis. Praiſit be god ye king wes ſaiff fra yair intendit treaſone aganes his ſacred perſone. The toun knew nothing till the comoun bell rang.

The toun of dundie being aduerteiſit, come all wp in armes to have ſpoilȝeit the burgh of perth, bot praiſit be god, the king knew the toun of perthis part to be ſure.

Mr Thomas cranſtoun, george craigingelt and John barron, ſeruantis to the erll of gowrie, wes hangit at the croce of perth for airt and pairt of the conſpiracie.

Sep. 30. Ther wes bonefyres ſett furth in perth, and all partis of the cuntrie, for his maieſties deliuerance from that treaſone, and preiching appointit euerie Tuyſday, in euerie burgh.

Oct. 31. The corpis of the erll of gowrie, and his brother, wer tranſportit to edinburgh, to the parliament to be hauldin the firſt of november, and war forfaltit the xi of november.

John Ramſay wes knychtit of weſt barnes, and hew hereis of cowſland.

Sir Thomas erſkyne maid lord dirltoun.

Andro henderſone ſett to libertie and receiwit his office of chalmerlaine.

Nov. 19. The Duk charlis borne at dumfermling 1600 and baptiȝat in the chappell royall the 22 December in eodem anno.

April 15. 1601. The Kingis majeſtie come to perth, and wes maid burges at the mercat croce. Thair wes ane punſcheone of wyne ſett thair and all drucken out. He reſſavit the banquet fra the toun, and ſubſcrivit the gilde buik with his awin hand, Jacobus rex, parcere ſubjectis, et debellare ſuperbos.

The execution of mr william balfour, John Johnſtoun, couper in perth, james murray, henry cook, for theft committit be thame in duncane robertſones hous.

They wer hangit at the croce 22 apryll 1601.

Sep. 22. Thair fell a reik of the tymer bridge of Tay with tua men, ane horſs, and ane lead. On of the men wes gottin ſaiff agane with the horſs and the lead. Bot the other man callit Lamb, drownit in the water.

Nov. 1. 1602. Henrie balneavis, and william Jak, maid thair repentance in thair awn ſeattis on ſabbath eftir ſermone, for making lybell againes mr william couper, miniſter, and henrie elder, clerk, "as King David wes ane ſair ſanct to the croun, ſo is mr william cowper and the clerk to this poore toun." Ane act of counſal aganes thame, that nane of them ſould beare office or gett honourable place in the toun thaireftir.

Dec. 29. 1603 [1602?] Oliver Young bailzie deceiſſit.

Thurſday 24 March 1603. The quene of Ingland departit, and king James the ſext proclaimit King therefter. Ane bone fyre ſett furth in all Scotland.

Tuyſday April 5. The kings majeſtie tuik Jornay to Ingland to receive ze croun.

—— 9. Proclamatioun ſummoning all the M^cgregors to compere and underly the law, for the ſlauchter of the laird of luſſe, and the men of dumbartane.

Wedneſday June 1. The quene, prince, and princes, tak journey to Ingland.

July 12. The laird of Ballandene quha wes ſlaine in dundie, wes bureit in the kirk of Perth, be eiſt the counſal hous door under a blew ſtone of the Ryne.

—— 26. His majeſtie wes crownit King of Ingland, france, and Ireland at Weſtminſter, bone fyres ſett furth heir in all partis.

Great peſtilence in England, and ſpecialie in london and the ſowth of Scotland, from June to februar.

Dec. 26. The execution of Andro Jackſone for the ſlauchter of Thomas hey in claſhbeny.

Jan. 24. 1604. The ſtepill of ſtone fell.

—— 20. The Laird of Mᶜgregor was hangit at Edinburgh, and eleven of his onhappie kin. They hang all night upon the gallous.

March 27. The touns burrow mure wes ſawin with eattis.

April —. A meſs ſaid in george boſwallis ludgeing. My lord Inch-affray duelling thair. The ladie oliphant preſent, [&] her twa ſiſters. Alexander mᶜbrak burgeſs of perth preſent. The Prieſt wes abercrombie To his name.

June 15. The men of black ruthven and huntingtower, cwiſt turffis on our burrow muir, at command of the comptroller, Sir David murray, Capitane of his Maieſties guaird, and our proveſt for the tyme. The toun raiſs aucht hundred men in armis, and putt thame off. Angus Cairdney deit of the appoplexie thair. No ma harme, be great apearence of ſkayth.

July 3. Ane parliament hauldin at perth, be John erll of montrois, wiceroy. The haill nobilitie wer preſent. The town muſtart fourteen hundred men in armes and gude ecupadge. At this parliament the comptroller, Sir david murray, wes made Lord of Scone. His Knightis [were] Sir Andro balfour, and Sir Johne moncrieff of Kynmonthe.

Morton bure the ſuord, Argyle the ſepter, Angus the crown, and the Great ſeall be the maſter of montrois.

—— 17. A great inteſtine diſcention in Dundee. The principale parteis oppoſeitis, mr alexander wedderburn clerk, and Robert fleſcher baillie.

March 4. 1605. My Lord Drummond maid erll of perth, aganes the quhilk, perthe proteſtit, and wer miſcontent. My lord home, erll of Jedevart. My lord fywie, erll of dunfermeling.

This ȝeir great peſtilence in Leith, edinburgh, and ſundrie places.

July 17. John myln and his men enterit to the bridge work.

Aug. 9. The Laird of auldies ludgeing, beneath the croce, fell on ane Setterday at nycht.

Nov. 5. The powder treaſone done at london wes mercifullie detectit, and his maiſtie and his bairnis, with the haill eſtates of the land, by gods preventing mercie ſaiffit. This wes done aganes his maiſtie be the papiſtis in Ingland for the religioun.

July 1. 1606. Ane parliament haldin at perth be John erll of montrois viceroy. Kathanes buir the ſuord, Argyle the ſepter, Angus the crown. My lord ſlemying maid erll of Wigton. Glames erll of Kinghorne. Tullibardin maid erll. My lord new bottell maid erll of Luthiane.

This parliament was riddin be the nobilitie, all in robbis of read ſcarlet, and facit with quhyte furris, and the biſhoppis in blak.

At this tyme thair fell ane pley betuix the erll of eglinton and the erll of glencairn. It laſtit fra ſewin, till ten houris at nycht, with great ſkayth. Ane man of glencairnis wes ſlaine. The toun raiſs in arms, and patt [down?] the aſſaulters to thair great commendation.

Aug. 9. The foirland of andro Ray, next to James drummondis land tuik fyre, and brunt all ane.

The ſame nycht there wes blude fyre, and the peſt come in, quhilk continewit till May thereafter.

Feb. 21. 1607. The trie bridge wes tane away, betuix twelve and ane on ane Sunday in tyme of denner.

March 2. Thair rais ane great extraordinarie winde, that blew the lead of the ſteipill, to mr John malcolmes back ȝett, callit the biſchope murrayes hous.

April 8. Ane Synodall aſſemblie hauldin in the new kirk of perth. My lord of Scone come in and diſchairgit thame, and threw ower the tabils amongis thame, and pat thame furth of the kirk, quha ȝit held

yair aſſemblie at the kirk door, with ioy that the peopill wer ſo weill affectit to thame. Mr hary lewingſtone was moderator.

Sept. 28. The read of carpow, quher the haill inhabitants of newburgh came out in armes aganes our bailleis and counſall that wer fingill on our part. Thair wes ſundrie hurt on both ſydes. Thomas Cobraithe wes ſlaine to tham in the newburgh.

Dec. 1. There wes ane continuall froſt from that day foreſaid till the 21ſt of marche, and paſſage upone the yce over Tay all the tyme, and paſſage ower and ower at the mil of Errol.

April 8. 1608. Patrick eviot, brother germane to the laird of balhouſſie, wes murtherit in blelok, be his wyfe Janet Roſs, quha wes air to the lairdſchip of craigie and of Kynfawnis both. He wes ſchote with ane gun in his bed ſleiping be James M'nair. Thairefter they wer both Taikin and execute, and brint efter they wer hangit, in the playfield of perth the 17th may 1608. His head and arm patt wp on the Caſtell gaivill port.

Aug. 29. 1608. The peſt come to perth, and continewit till may therefter 1609, quherin deit ȝoung and auld 500 perſones.

Oct. 24. William erll of angus, and frances erll of erroll, excommunicat for papiſtrie.

Nov. 8. Ane earth quak at 9 hours at ewin that schoak the tolboth the battell end, that thair fell many ſtonis aff it.

June 5. 1609. The great wind blew down the ſtanes of the mantil wall of the kirk, in tyme of Sermone, and terrifeit the peopell.

Oct. 2. In ane parliament haldin at edinburgh, It wes ordenit that ilk burgh ſould hawe proveſtes within thaimſelfis, actual tradiſmen.—So the burgh of perth chuſit James adamſone proveſt, and wes continewit 3 ȝeiris.

Feb. 20. 1610. Being Faſtingis ewin, mr william rynde, maſter of

the grammar ſchool, departit this life when putting on his cloathes in the morning.

June 1611. My lord oliphant biggit ane dame to bring in water to ane miln at Dupline wpon erne, And quhen it wes perfyted, the erll of Tullibardin with his friendis in the nycht dang all down.

July 2. 1611. Mr william Cowper miniſter, marreit with grizzell anderſone, dochter to Robert anderſone.

May 19. 1612. Ane miſſiue [came to the Lord of Scone] from Edinburt concerning ane moſt vile fact comittit be the Lord Sanquhair and his men.

" After our verie harttie commendationis to ȝour gud Lordſhip, the Kings Maieſtie hauing verie iuſt caus of offence at this vyld and deteſtable fact, committit be the Lord Sanquhair, and his tua men, in ther murther of the Maſter of the fenſe ſchoole by whom he formarlie Loſt his awin eie, It hes pleaſet his maieſtie to giue command and direction, that inuentorie be mad of all and quhateuer belongeth unto him in this kingdome, and that the ſamin be put wnder arreſtment, to be furthcomeand to his Maieſtie, and it is his maieſties pleaſure that your Lordſhipe ſalbe burdenit with the execution of this direction within the ſhirefdome of Perth, Therefor theſe are to requeſt you, that immediatlie after the reſett heiroff, you addreſs yowrſelf to the burgh of Perth, and therr call unto you the Proweiſt and Baylzeis, and goe altogidder to the ſaidis Lordis Ludging in Perth, cauſe the doris thairoff be mad patent and oppin, and thair tak ane perfit and exact count and inventorie of the haill gudis, geir, pleniſhing, hingings, ſiluer-work, and quhat elſe is within the ſaid houſe, or in anie vther part of the burgh perteining to the ſaid Lord, and put the ſame in Lockfaſt houſs, and Rowmes, wnder verie ſure cuſtodie and keiping, ſua that the ſame may be furthcumand to his maieſtie at all occaſions as accordis. As alſo that ye tak not of all and quhatſumeuer fermes and dewties deu unto the ſaid

Lord in that ſhyre, commanding the perſons in whoſe hands the ſamin ar, To keip and reteine the ſamin for his maieſties wſe, and that you report unto his Maieſties Councill a not of all that yow ſall find heirin, And recommending this to yowre care and diligence, as a poynt highlie touching his Maieſtie, and recommending yowr gud Lordſhip to godis protection. We reſt,

Your Lordſhip's
very aſſured good freind,
Al[exander] Cancells,

Edinburgh, May 19. 1612. Marre. Kingorne.
Lothiane. Abercorne."

May 22. 1612. My lord of Scone tuik Inuentar of my lord Sanquharis hous, for ſlauchter of ane Inglis fencer.

June 30. My lord Sanquhar with twa gentillmen with him, hangit at londone for the ſaid ſlauchter.

Nov. 7. Prince henrie depairtit this lyfe at Londoun of ane mychtie fewer, thocht to be poyſonit, to the great greefe of all trew ſubjectis.

1612. Fra mychaelmes to that tyme great dearth. The wictuall at 10 lib. the boll.

Feb. 14. 1613. The princeſs of britane wes married to the compt palatine.

Dec. 12. The four commoun mylnes, the south and north Inches, and haill fiſhingis belanging to the toun of perthe, ſet to takiſmen, merchantis, and craftiſmen, for xix ȝeiris to the 1631 ȝeir of god, for the defraying the 40,000 merk of debt.

Jan. 1. 1614. Her grace [the princeſs palatine] wes happilie deliwered to her huſband of ane man chyld. God ſend him his grace. Bone fyris, ringing of the bellis, with other paſtyme. Efter, hearing of gods vord, and thanks geving therfor, within perth the 18 day of Januar inſtant.

—— My lord maxwell wes execute in edinburgh, for ſlauchter of the laird of Johnſtoun and breking waird.

—— Vpone ſetterday the xxij day of Januar 1614, the north weſt pend and bow of the brige of erne fell down, being eveill biggit fra the begynning, fillit onlie with clay and ȝeard, and but ony blind pend as the brig of tay hes bene in the ſamen manner foundeit. The burgh and ſchyr with all diligence cauſit david Jak, and dauid Millie, craftſmen, put up the ſamen with tymber vark.

Vpoun twyſday the firſt day of merche 1614 ȝeiris, be half hour to ſax in the mornyng, ane earthquhak haid in divers places.

Vpon thurſday therefter, the 3 of Merche 1614, ane other earthquhak at xii houris in the nicht haid baith in land brwch.

—— 1614. being wedingſday at v houris at evin, dauid maxtoun burges of perth, on the lang calſy foirnent the dowcat, cuming from huntingtour, in ane apoplexy fal doun, na cumpanie with him, at the pleſor off god, depairtit this lyff but ony ſpetch, brocht in to his awin ludgeing, and bureit on the morne eftir.

April 25. 1614. Ane miſſive [came] from Sanct Androis concerning the miniſterie of perth, [viz.]

" Richt honorable and louing brethren, After remembrance of my dewtie to yow all, ȝe ar not ignorant that the place of your miniſterie formarlie poſſeſſed be my Lord Biſhop of Galloway is now vacand, and the care of the prouiſion therof lyeth chiefly vpon me. And thairfore, being bound in conſcience and ſtraited with loue and affection towards yow, I have thoucht gud to requeſt yow, that ȝe wald tak that matter to heart, and aduiſe wpon the man whom ȝe wald haue to ſupplie his rowme; for I haue conferred with his Lordſhip, and I find be him that he is indifferentlie diſpoſed to ſee his rowme ſtaicked with ſome godlie learned man that beſt may ſerue you. I haue no vther intention but to admitt to that miniſterie, the man, whom efter aduice ȝe find

fitteſt for yow, and think not be anie tergiuerſation to eſcape the planting of ane other man, and that with all diligence; aſſure yourſelfe that neither the Kings Maieſtie, (who muſt haue his royall conſent in your planting,) neither I, your ordinar, nor my Lord of Galloway, ane conſcience and reuerend prelat, will ſuffer you longer to be deſolate of ane paſtour. Thus I both requeſt and requyre you, that ȝe ſend your commiſſionars to our Synod, quhilke is to be holden heir vpon tweſday and Wedneſday nixt, that ordour may be tane of your prouiſion. Inioye your priviledge in gods name, as the ſecond burgh both of the kingdome and diocy: and ȝe ſall find me to aſſiſt you be my Councill and autoritie to my vttermoſt, to obtaine aither ane, vpon whom ȝe ſall ſett your eye, and to have ane tyk of March, of quhilke ȝe may mak choice. Loue maks me to writt thus, and the conſcience of my calling maks me to be thus peremptorie. I ſend my harttie ſalutations to yow all, and to the gud communitie. The grace of our Lord Jeſus chriſt be with you all. Amen. I reſt

your very louing and Kynd Brother,

SANCTANDROIS."

"Sanctandrois Caſtle,
26 Apryl 1614."

In the toun of dundee, vpown thurſday night the xxix off December 1614 ȝeiris, Mr James row, miniſter at Kilſpindie, and Mr Robert Rynd, miniſter at Langforgown, lyand both in ane bed within the dwelling hous of ———— and baith being veill quhen they lay down, wer founde vpon the morning efter, both deid.

Vpon the —— day of Januar 1615 ȝeiris, being thurſdey, the Vatter of tay, be veittis and fleit, vaxit ſo great, that it coverit haill our north inche, the mortoun haugh, and almaiſt all the ſouth inche. [It] continewit fra thurſdey in the morning, to the morne therefter. Men rowing with boats in the ſame northe inche, taking forth ſcheip that war in perrell of drowning.

Vpoun twyſdy the x of januar 1615. adame ſchoir, wretour to our ſowerane lords ſignet, departit this lyff, and vas bureit the ſamen day.

Feb. 21. This ȝeir preceding, the froſt was lang luikit for before it came. Quhen it came, it continewit ſa lang, that the vater of tay being all froſin aboue and beneath the brig, that thair vas daylie paſſage aboue the brig next the north inche bayth for hors and men, and beneith the brig fornent the erle of arrols ludging and the ſchoir, for men. [It] continewit ſa quhill the twentie fyve day of februar, that the cobellaris quha rowit on the vater being therby prejudgit of their comoditie, in the nicht tyme brak the ice at the entrie, and ſtayd the paſſage. Vpoun faſtingis ewin being the xxj of februar, ther was tua puncheonis of burdeous vyne careit, ſting on ling, on mennis ſchoulderis on the vater of tay on the ice, at the mideis of the north inche, the veight of the puncheon, and the beraris eſtimat to three ſcoir twelve ſtane veight.

The erle of Orknay convicted for treaſon deit in edinburgh, beheaded at the marcat croce vpoun ye [6] day of [februar.]

Vpon monandey at nicht the vj day of merche, ane vehement ſnaw came on. [It] leſtit all the nicht, and continewit to vedenſday therefter, al quhilk tyme, be xij houris in the day it begowth of new, and continewit ſo vehement, nicht and day, to the —— of merche, that during the haill tyme, mixtit with froſtis, na travell or litill paſſage vas ther aither for hors or men; on the quhilk wedenſday, diveris hors and men periſchit and deit.

Vpoun the ſevint day of Maij, great ſnaw and froſt, quhairby na traveil for hors nor men.

The archbiſchope of ſanct androis, called mr george gladſtanes, departit this lyff within the citie of ſanctandrois, upon the [2] day of [May], and vas honerablie bureit in the aulde colledge kirke, vpoun the —— day of ——— therefter: at the quhilk buriall the biſchope of galloway, mr william cowper, maid the funerall ſermone.

Vpoun the ſext day of maij 1615, williame moncreiff of that ilk, at his awin hands, but conſent or knawledge of the burgh of perth, and alledging richt to ane fiſching of the freirtoun, callit helloch hoill beſyde the fiſching of perth, callit the veill off waiſt, pat in ſome ſtaikis of trie, in the litill inche, fornent the lands of freirtown, quhilks ſtaiks the counſall and magiſtrats of perth, immediately as it came to ther knawledge, pullit vp, hewit in peices, and toiſt down the water of tay, quharupoun the town and the laird raſit law ſouretie aganes vtheris.

Vpoun the —— day of ——— 1615, Alexander Jackſone of vatterie bwittis, haveing ſlane ane nychtbour of his, and being apprehendit therfor be the laird of inchmertene, [he] was, upoun the morne therefter, brocht to perth, deliverit to the ſheriff deput, and committit to the irones within the tolbuith of perth. The ſaid alexanders friends purcheſt ane letter frome the councill, charging the provoſt and bailȝeis of perth, upoun his awin charges to tranſport him to edinburgh, to ſuffer tryell for the ſaid factis befoir the juſtice. Quha being tranſportit ther, [he wes] convictit be ane affyſe and headit.

The corps of ſir harrie lyndeſay, ȝounger of carriſtoun, brocht fra ſtriveling to perth in ane coiſhe, within ane caik of leid. [It] remainit all nicht within the ſouth porche door of the kirk; quhilk vas the xv day of June 1615. The magiſtratis of perth, counſall, [and] communitie, met thame on fute at pathewlis, and convoyit thame to the town. The morne therefter, the magiſtrates of perth, and ane guid nowmer off the inhabitants of the town on hors, convoyit the corps to cowper in angus. My lord of ſcone, than provoſt, with quhome they raid. The corps was convoyit in the coiſhe throw the vater of tay at the haid of the northe inche.

1616. Great povertie of touns, and great dearth.

Feb. 21. 1617. Mr John Guthrie admitted miniſter at perth, be the biſchopis of ſanct androis and glaſgow, within the kirk of perth. Doc-

tor william barclay preachit: and wes tranſportit thairfra to be miniſter of edinburgh in anno 16[21], and thairefter conſecrat biſhope of Murray.

May 16. 1617. The Kingis maieſty returnit from Ingland, to wiſite his kynde and natiwe kingdome of Scotland, and come to edinburgh, with great ſolemnitie, reſſauit be the toun at the weſt port, be the proueſt, baillies, and council, being all in blak gownes, and ane ſpeiche deliuerit to him. He red doun the hie ſtreit to the abbay, with great plouff. He reſſawit propynes from the burgh. He wes reſſauit vith —— men in the toun in gude ſort, with partizen ſtalffis, to ſerwe as his maieſties guaird. Thus he wes wſit in all burrowis quher he came, as perth, Dundie, ſtriwiling, brechene, glaſgow, linlythgow, drumfries, couper of fyff. He road north to mure rowmond, and ſtayit in Kynnard x days at his ſport in hunting.

April 15. 1618. Elizabeth ruthuen, countes of montroiſs, wes buried at aberruthuen.

June 20. Vpoun midſomer day, the xx of June 1618 zeiris, at tua eſternone, —— Toſchoch of monivaird zounger, ſlaine in the ſouth geit of perth, be laurence bruce zounger of cultemalundis, his brother, and diuers thair aſſociatis. The tua that was with monyvaird, the ane deidlie hurt, bot deit not, the uther his richt hand clene ſtruken fra him. This done in ane moment of tyme, all the committaris therof eſchewit out of the town befoir any of the tounis men hard of ony ſuche thing.

Aug. 25. Thair wes ane generall aſſemblie haldin at perthe, anent the ſacrament of the ſupper, and kneilling, and the fywe articles, that wes aggreit to.

Aug. 29. Mr John guthrie, on ane ſonday efter the eſternones ſermone, mareit the maſter of Sanquhar with Sir Robert Swiftis dochter, ane Inglis knycht in zorkſchyre. Nather of the parteis exceidit 13 zeiris of age.

Sep. 2. Mr Thomas roſs, miniſter at cargill, went to court, and thair for ſum infamous writtingis and railling aganes the ſcottis natioun, werie onnaturallie, he being on of the ſones of the hous of craigie, quherof he was not wyſs, he wes headit in edinburgh, quarterit, and put wpon the portis.*

Vpoun tuyſday at ix houris in the morning, the —— day of ſeptember 1618 ȝeiris, in the kirk of Glammis, ane nobill lord, my lord hey, eldeſt ſone to the potent lord, frances erle of errol, was married with lady anna Lyoun, onlie dochter to the lait deceiſſit erle of Kinghorne. [They] returnit fra the kirk, to the place of glamis with their nobill freinds on ather ſyde. The feiſt continewit ane gude ſpace, with great cheir, and all ſorts of paſtyme and merrenes.

Nov. A great blazeing ſtar ſene in the eaſt 14 dayis.

Dec. 25. ȝule approwit, and command gewin to hold it holie; quhilk day mr John guthrie at perth preachit thair, being fryday.

[March 2. 1619.] The quenes maieſtie departit this lyfe, and wes buried the 29 of apryle. [May 13.]

—— 28. The ſacrament of the ſupper gewin on peace day by Mr Johne guthrie, miniſter, out of his awin hand, to all the peopill, and thay reſſaivit it on thair kneis.

Aug. 2. The brig of almond biggit, and compleit over.

Oct. 2. Thair wes ane lugeing all brunt in the ſouth ſyde of the hie gait of perth, pertening to conſtantene Malice. The fyre crewell to behold.

Maj 9. 1621. [Mr John Guthrie receivit] ane miſſive from edinburgh, viz.

* The following entry relative to the same matter, occurs a few pages farther on: "In September 1618, Mr thomas ros, sone to the lard of craigie, wes for vreting at oxfuird in Ingland againes the scottis natioun, being sent to scotland be schip, convicted be ane assyse, his richt hand first struken aff, and thirefter beheadit."

" Richt honorable Sir,

The loue and affection that we did euer cary towards you, and comfort which we hoped to enioie be your miniſtrie amongſt ws, were the firſt motives that mooued ws to mak chois of yow to be our paſtor; and nocht onlie theſe, quha wer magiſtratis for the tyme, but the whole people wer caried with the lyk affectioun and hope. That expectation is ſo fixed in our mynd, that we are ſtill reſolued to become ſuittoris at your handis, that ye micht be pleaſed accept upon yow that our calling, which we are perſwaded hes proceidit onlie off god, and off the inſtinct off his holie ſpirit, for neuer was ther anie called by a people with more uniformitie of mynd, nor with ſo great applauſe, as ye haue beene by ws. Nether hes greater expectation of comfort beene imprinted into the hartis of people, then that quhilke is expected by the people be your miniſtrie. Since then our haill hopes does depend upon yow, let ws not find yow in this our ſtrait, refractarie to godis calling; bot as we all as it were with ane mynd, hes mad choiſe of yow to be our paſtor, ſo it wald pleiſe yow to meet ws with the lyk ſympathie off affectioun, and to embrace this our calling that we may be once mad happie be yow in injoying our long looked for deſyres. We doe not think it fitting to contend with him quhom we wald haue our paſtor, and by whoſe miniſtrie we expect ſo great comfort, but we will rather flee to your awin bountie and charitie, moſt earneſtlie entreating yow, that ye wald be pleiſed to accept wpon yow that burden quhilk our neceſitie nor ws to ceaſe from our farder importunities; aſſuring yow, that quhat kindneſs or contentment can be expected or deſyred of ane gud people towardis ther paſtour, yow ſhall neuer find inlaiking in ws towardis yow. We alſo wnderſtand by the Archbiſhop of Sanctandrois, that ye had offered to him to come hither, bot that ye wald not bring with yow your familie; we hop for better at your handis, and that ye will tak vp ane vther courſe, ſeing it ſall be vnpleaſant both to yow

and ws: but to the end we might knaw your mynd, we haue directed John byiris, our dean of guild, and william nemo, twa of our number, to entreat with yow thiranent, whom ye may be pleaſed to truſt in our behalfe: And we hope that netheir ye nor nane of your familie ſhall haue iuſt cauſe to repent thair change. So expecting your anſwer be writ with theſe our commiſſionaris, and hoping to mett with the lyk loue and affectioun as that which you ſall find in ws, We commit yow to god, and reſtis,

your moſt louing and affectionat friends,

The Proueſt Baylies and Councill of Edinburgh.

D. Aikenhead, Proueſt.

John Maknachte, Baylzie.

William Dick, Baillie.

Hary Moresone, Baillie.

Edinburgh, the nynt of May 1621."

Oct. 14. 1621. Thair wes ſuche ane inundatione of vater, as the lyke in no manes remembrance wes ſene, both in reguaird of the hiche ryſing in the weſt ſide, as alſo of the ſudane coming of it, being ſetterday all day wating efter.

Befoir xii of the cloke [of] the nycht, all the peopill in the caſtell gavill and weſt port, wer wat in thair beddis, and wakened with water to the waiſt in their floores. It ſemit the windowis of heawin and fountaines of the deep wer opponit. It carried away the ellewin bow brig of Tay. It wes within ane fute in hicht from the croce of perth. It tuike down the gawill of the tolbuith. It carried away all louis-work, being of admirabill ſtrength and ſtructur. This it did to the common ſtreit of the toun by diuers and many particular menes loſſes. The peopill of the Caſtel gawill had died, about iij hundred ſoules, gif a boatt hed not bene borne be men from the ſpey tour to it.

God lett ws newir ſie the ellik of it againe. It contynwit ſunday all day. The wind and weit increaſſit. No paſſage be any port, ȝit we being humblit all that week with faſting and prayer. Tuyſs preaching everie day. God hard ws that the water decreaſſit, glorie be to his majeſtie. Many maid wowes for thair ſaiftie, xii * abſtinance and thankfulnes.

This ȝeir [1621] a great ſkairſtie of cornes wes throw all the kingdome, and that be the ewill harweſt and inwndatioun that happnit, and [would] have bene greater, [if] abondance of eforane wictuall hed not cum in, ȝit it gaiff 12 lib, 20 merk, the bow bear, and peaſs meall, 16 merks.

March 3. 1622. Mr John Robertſone admittit miniſter at perth, be impoſitioun of handis of Alexander biſchope of dunkell. Miniſtris, Johne malcolme, Nimiane drumond, Robert murray and Alexander bannewis, and depoſit on the 25 maij 1655.

June. Thair come in ane great dunkirk ſchip to Leith, chaſſit be the hollande vachteris, quher in the road of leithe, they hed ane great fecht and many men ſlaine, fra xij at nicht till four in the morning, and this ſchip wes burnit be the hollanderis a ȝeir thairefter, quha ſtayit and keipit her in.

June 22. Alexander erll of dumfermeling, chancellar of Scotland, departit this lyfe in Pinkey, with the lowe of all the kingdome, ane honeſt teſtimony of all nobillis and wtheris, buried in dalgeatie on the nynt of July thairefter.

July 18. George the thrid ſone to the baillie of erroll, being clerk regiſter, wes maid chanceller of Scotland be his maieſties gift wnder the great ſaill.

In this ȝeir [1622] about the harueſt and efter, Thair wes ſuche ane wniverſall ſeiknes in all the cuntrie as the ellyke hes not bene hard of.

* Sic in MS.

Bot ſpeciallie in this burgh, that no familie in all the citie wes frie of this viſitatioun. Thair wes alſo great mortalitie amongs the poore.

Feb. 23. 1623. Prince Charlis tuik his jorney from londoun to Spane throw france. He paſt with fyve allanerlie in his companie, and in october thairefter, he returnit from Spayne, to the great contentmentis of all the kingdome, and bone fyres wer ſett furth throch out all the cuntrie.

In ȝeir [1623] deit within ſextene weekis, james adamſone, quha wes proveſt, mr henrie anderſone, quha wes bailzie, david ſibbald, william williamſone, James bannewis, quha hed bene baillies, Andro anderſone, quha wes bailȝie that ſame ȝeir.

Thair wes this harveſt tyme ane great mortalitie and dearthe that x or xij deit ordinarlie euerie day, from midſomer to mychaelmas, within this burgh.

—— Lowſwark wes boundit in ſtone, for bwilding quherof, the kingis majeſtie payit 2000 merks. This burgh payit 1000 lib. The laird of Balhouſſie ſould have payit iij hundred merks, as ȝit reſtand.

Sep. 21. This ȝeir the counſall being met in the counſall hous, we fand the toun to be 20,000 merkis in debt, and ten ȝeir of the tak of the mylnes, Inches, and fiſchingis to run.

Oct. 5. henrie elder clerk depairtit this lyfe and wes buried on ſonday thairefter, and on mononday the day of october, being the election day, John merſer admittit clerk but ony oppoſitioun.

1623–4. This ȝeir wes ſuche ane froſt, that the ellyke hes not bene ſene in our dayis, for from mertymes to the 30 of Januar, thair wes paſſage over the Tay wpone the ice. And thaireftir diſſolvit and freiſſit agane to the 23d of february, that ellewin cairtis with 21 puncheonis of wyne came over wpon the yce from dundie heir.

Jan. 24. 1624. Thair wes ane great fyre in dumfermling, that brunt almaiſt the haill toun in four houris ſpace. Thairefter wpone thair

ſupplication voluntar contribution wes grantit thame throchout the kingdome. Thair wes collectit [in Perth ?] aboue lxx merkis.

May 10. 1624. Thair wes ane juſtice court haldin at perth, be ſir george hey, chancellor, ſir alexander colwill, juſtice deput, The erll of murray, The erll of perth, [lord] wyems, quherin many comperit and wer clengit be affyſe, onlie 3 hangit, M'gregoris.

Sept. 18. Ane miſſive direct from Edinburgh concerning the Conſerwatorie.

" Richt honorabill and loving nichtbouris,

Efter owr hairtie and maiſt affectionat commendatioune, fforſamekill as we wnderſtand, be ane letter direct from Mr Patrik Hamiltoun, of his maieſties gracious acceptance of the laſt letter written to his Maieſty be the commiſſioners of the Burrowis, convenitt heir in Auguſt laſt, Anent the mater of conſeruatorie, and withall, that his Maieſtie hes ſignified his pleaſure anent him, Which is, that in reſpect of James Dowglas aige and his maieſtie many ſeruices, that he will nocht ſpair him, and thairfore deſiring yat he micht with ane guid leave returne, We haue thocht fitt to giff ȝow notice heirof, and becaus the mater doth ſo concerne the haill burrowis in publict and ilk man in private, and that thaire remaines good hopes that his maieſtie will not altogidder reſett the ſuit of ſa monie his guid ſubjectis ; leiſt anie neglect be imputed to us in the carriage of the buſineſs, if we ſuld ſuffer the ſame to deſert, the advantagis being great to the pretendantis, the preſent titulars eſtate with the ſeaſone of the ȝeir conſidderit, We have ordaned ane particular conventioun of burrowis to be halden heir, upon the laſt of September inſtant, Of the quhilk number, ȝe are to be ane ;— To conſidder upon the beſt expedient to proſequnt that effaire to the guid of the burrowis, and to take ſuch courſe thairin as may tend to the ſettling of that place to thair contentment ; We ar thairfore earneſtlie to entreat ȝow to ſend ȝour commiſſioners fullie inſtructed to vote,

reaſone, and contende, anent all things concerning ye ſame, or whiche ſalbe thocht fitteſt for the guid thairof, and ſwa expecting thame, we reſt your loving brethren, the proveſt, and baillies of Edinburgh, ſubſcryved be Mr Johne Hay our comoun clerk at our command, Edinburgh the 18 of September 1624.

To the richt honorabill our loving freindis and nichtbouris, the Proveſt, baillies, and Counſall of the burgh of Perth, Theſe."

Oct. 26. Robert abroche, ane makgregor, ane grait lymer, quha haid been ains or twyſs forgewen and remittit be his maieſtie for his oppreſſioun wpone hovp of amendment, ȝit he continewit ſtill in his knaueries. And after thair wes mekill ſearching maid for him in the hielandis, and all his freindis chargit to apprehend, come to perth this day, being twyſday, ane preaching day, efter ſermone, and fell doun on his kneis, and ane tow about his neck, and offerit his ſuord be the point to the chancellar of Scotland, quha refuſſit to accept of it, and commanded the bailleis to ward him, lyke as they inſtantly wardit him, and patt baith his feit on the gade quher he remanit.

Nov. 30. The peſt come to edinburgh be ane paull, and wes *
and death of tua of his childerene,
and ane ſtranger ludgit in his hous callit Paull, quha hed brocht money with the infectioun from danſkyne; wpone the quhilk the ſeſſione raiſs, and the chancellar and his familie come to perthe, thrie dayis thairefter.

Dec. 14. Sir andro murray of baluaird departit this lyfe in edinburgh, his corpis brocht to faulkland, and buried in arngoſk.

Feb. 11. 1625. Ane miſſive direct frome Edinburgh, concerning the conſervatorie and factourie in Flanders.

"Richt honorabill and loveing nichtbouris,

After our maiſt hartlie commendatiounes, Wheras the commiſſioners of burowis convened at this our burgh the 13 day of July laſt, anent the

* This blank occurs in MS.

commiſſioun giwin to thame be the commiſſioners of burrowis, in thair laſt generall conventioun haldin at Lynlithgow, for taking ordor with the factouris in Flanders, they then continewed this dyet to the fyftene day of Merche nixt, and gaiwe ordor for warning of the ſaid factouris for compeirance heir the ſaid day; and ſeing that your burghe was one of the ſaid number to quhome the ſaid mater was concredeit, we thairfore, be thir preſentis, hes thocht guid to put yow in rememberance of the ſaid appointment, and to require yow to ſend your commiſſioners ſufficientlie inſtructed for decyding of quhat complainte ſalbe giwin in againſt the ſaids factors, and for prewenting of all farder miſordour amangs theme, and all wther greaweances the merchantis may ſuſteine in thair defalt; and if anie of your nichtbouris hes ſuſteined anie hurt or wrong be thame, that ye bring theme with yow inſtructed for preiving of the ſame. And lyikwayes we doe intreat yow, to inſtruct yowr commiſſioners with the beſt reaſſounes yow haue, for inſiſting with the lordis of his maieſties moſt honorabill priwie counſall, in the mater of importatioun of Wictuall wpon the ald accuſtomit dewties. And laſtlie, ſince that it hes pleaſit his maieſtie to confer wpon Mr Patrick Drummond, the rewerſioun of the place of the conſerwatorie, efter the preſent titulars deceis, we, efter report maid be Mr Johnne hay, quhome we imployed to deale with his maieſtie in the ſaid mater of the proceidings therin, and wnderſtanding his maieſties will be his letters anent the ſaid Maiſter Patrick, enterit in conditiones with him, and fand him plauſible to all we could reaſonablie craiwe of him in your names; we will thairfor requyre yow, as on quhome that mater does much concerne, to ſend your commiſſioners ſufficientlie inſtructed, to meitt at this owr burghe the ſaid fyftene day of marche nixt, for finall ſatling with him, and ſetting downe ſuch wther conditiones as yow ſall think fitteſt for the weale of yowr eſtait. So not troubling yow farther, bot committing the premiſſes to yowr care and diligence, we bid yow

hairtlie fareweill, (ſic ſubſcribitur,) yowr lowing freindis and nichbouris, the proweſt, baillies, and counſall of Edinburgh, ſubſcryweing be Mr Alexander guthrie, owr commoun clerk, at our command.

A. Guthrie.

Edinburgh, the 11th day of februar 1625.

To the richt honorabill, our lowing freinds and nichtbouris, the proweſt, baillies, and counſall of the burgh of Perth, Theſe."

27th March. Being ſonday, King James the ſext departit this lyfe, in Ingland, at Londoun, being 59 ȝeir of his age and regne of Scotland, and 22 of Ingland, france, and Irland; he wes ane learned, and religious, wyſs prince.

7th May. He wes bureit at weſtminſter with great pomp, and the funeraillis celebrat with 5000 mwrneris in blak, the Inglis and ſcottis nobilitie mairching all according to thair qualitie and degrie. The erll of mortoun buir the ſcottis pinſill. The ȝoung king wes cheiff mourner. The Duck of lennox, and marquis of hamiltoun, wer nixt the coffin. Charles the firſt, ſone to king James the ſext, wes proclaimit king at Londone the 27 day of marche, and in edinburgh the laſt day of the ſaid moneth, in the ſaid ȝeir of god 1625.

June 12. The queene come to Ingland from france to dower, and wes perſonallie maried to king charles; and thairefter, the packit cuming to edinburgh the 21 of the ſaid moneth, bone fyres wer ſet furth, and great mirth and ſchoteing from the caſtell. Thomas Crombie, burges of perthe, being ſummonit to wnderly the law for allegit ſlauchter of ane william blair, ane weſtland gentilman, quha notwithſtanding hed done the ſamyn negligentlie to him ſelfe, being of intention to have ſtrucken the ſaid Thomas with ane quhinger, he hurt himſelfe in the arme, quherof he died within 20 dayis thairefter. And the ſaid Thomas compeirit with 80 burgeſſes of perth, beſydes 5 erlls, 6 lordis,

and 26 barones, wpone the burgh of perthis deſyre to bak him, wes clengit and freid thairfra.

July. Thair wes this ȝeir ane great peſt at london, ſo that thair deit within the citie 12,000 in a weik.

Dec. 28. Ane wapoun ſchaweing in perth: upon this tyme tua new enſenȝeis maid be the toun. Adame paterſone, theſaurer.

Robert arnot and Patrick Pitcarne, capitanis, beararis of the enſenȝeis, John anderſone.

Feb. 8. 1626. John crychtoun of kinwed, wes buried at the kirk of kinclewin.

Aug. 7. 1626. [Here follows a miſſive] To the richt honorabill our loveing friendis and nichtbouris, the proueſt, bailȝies, and counſell of the burghe of perth:—

"Richt honorabill and loveing freindis, our commendatiounes rememberit, forſamekill as the lordis of his maieſties counſell of warre, be thair letter direct to me of the daitt the ſecund day of Auguſt inſtant, hes ſignifiet to me that they being conſtitut be his maieſtie, to forſie that this, his ancient kingdome, be weill and ſubſtantiouſlie provydit and furneſchit, with ſufficient guid airmis, and that the home bringing of airmis properly concernis the borrowis of his Realme, and that thairfor they thocht meit to mak the firſt offer thairof to the ſaidis burrowis, and thairfor willit ws to conveine the commiſſionaris of the ſaid burrowis, wpon the Tuentie tua day of this inſtant, to conſult gif they wald wndertak that chairge, and wpoun quhat termes and conditiounis, and quhat prices and Rate they wald furneis the ſubjectis, and ſiclyk to deliberate wpon all wther expediencis in the ſaid ſeruice, We have thairfor conform to the ſaid letter, thocht fitt to appoynt ane generall conwentioun of borrowis to meitt at this burgh the twentie ane day of this inſtant, to the effect abowe ſpecifit, and thairfor we will and requyre ȝow to ſend ȝour commiſſioner ſufficientlie inſtructed, to reſſoun, vote,

and conclude thairanent; and further forſamekill as thair is ane late proclamatioun maid anent the grievance, quhairin thair is ſum particulars, neirlie concernyng the whole borrowis of this Realme, and als that ſince the agent of the borrowis at Court hes demittit his plaice, and that thair public effaires doe require that thay haue ane agent reſident at Court, quhome they may intruſt with thair effairis, and to quhome thay may direct thair letters, to negotiat ſuch buſſineſs as thay ſall have with his maieſtie at anie tyme thairefter, we have thocht guid to recommend the ſame to ȝour wyſe conſideratioune, and accordinglie that ȝow wald ſend ȝour commiſſioners ſufficientlie inſtructed to vote, reſſoun, and conclude theranent. We intreat ȝow that ȝe wald wyſlie think wpon theſe effaires, and tak ſuch courſe as may be for the publict guid; for our awin pairtis, we ſall contribute owr beſt endewoires to that which may procure the ſame; gif wther wayis ȝow neglect theſe ordinar courſes which may tend to the publict guid, and which hes beine ſo reſolvit wpone by ȝour predeceſſouris, we feare the event ſall prove that things ar not ſo providentlie caryed as the publict neceſſitie requireth. We haue reſoluit not to be wanting to ȝow, nor our ſelffis, nather in our adwyſſe, nor anie wther thing within the compaſs of our powar, quherof as we have ever gewin evident demonſtratioun in all thir publict adoes, ſo do we intend to keip the ſame tennor in all time cuming, aſſuring ourſelffis that ȝe will gif ws the lyk retribution, wtherwayis neceſſitie will enforce everie man to prowyd for his awin priuate intereſt: ſwa remitting theſe particulars to ȝour wyſe conſideration, and willing ȝow wald ſend ȝowr commiſſioner ſufficientlie inſtructed for keiping of the ſaid conwentioun, as ȝow tender the weill of the borrowis, wnder the paine of xx punds ilk burrow, in caice of failure, we bid ȝow haſtily fareweill, and reſtis ȝour loveing freindis and nichtbouris, the Proveſt and baillies of Edinburgh, ſubſcrybeing be Mr John Hay, our commoun Clerk at our command. Sic ſubſcribitur J. Hay."

1626. Sir George hay chancellor wes hardlie accuſit befoir the king at londone, one diueris poyntis be my lord merſeaill, and his confideratis, bot wes freed at laſt, efter thrie quarteris of ane ȝeir remaining at court.

John erll of montroiſs departit at kincardin, and wes buriet at aberuthuen the 3 of Januar 1627.

1627. Thair wes ane warrand from the kingis majeſtie, and his counſall, for liſting in Scotland 9000 men to go to ſerwe wnder the king of denmark, in the germane warres for renewing of the palatinat and bohemia, quher thair wes many forcit, as beggaris, idill men, and but competent meanes to leiwe wpon, wnder the conduct of the erll of nidiſdaill, my lord ſpynny, and the laird of murthill Sincklar, as colonellis.

Thair wes this ſame ȝeir, 2000 gentilmen, landit men, baronis, lordis, and wtheris of gude ſorte, leawentit from Scotland, wnder the erll of mortoun, for helping to take the Ile of [Rhee] or ſanctmertenes in france. They ſailled from leith the 17 october 1627. Bot the Ille wes recowerit be the frenſche fra the Inglis.

Oct. 6. 1628. Thair wes ane juſtice court, or air, hauldin heir at perth, be william erll of monteithe as juſtice general, quherto wer 25 ſcott indytit and panellit. They wer gentlie wſet and dimiſſit wpone caution to compeir the next court. Thair wer certane of our nychbouris burgeſſes citat. Our Proweſt being crownar producit our gift, and releiwit thame, and Tuk proteſtatioun quhilk wes extractit.

The ſame tyme andro wilſone being deane of gilde, wer enterit my lord Kilcruich the Juſtice, ſir John hay, and his brother, and wtheris burgeſſis.

Oct. 6. 1629. Ane iuſtice air haulden at perth be Sir george auchinlek of balmano, and mr [Alexander Seton] of kilcruich, juſtices deput. Sir Thomas houp the kingis advocat being preſent, quherto wer ſumonit

and compeirit about 200 men, ſum fynit, and ſum ſet frie, according as probatioun aith of the partie. Thair wes 97 perſones of this burgh inditit, quha wer referrit to our awin cenſure wpone productioun and lycht of our charter quhilk wes producit, and documentis tane thairupone, and fand ws crownearis within our ſelffis. As alſo the lordis acknawlegit the fynes to pertene to ws, and tuk the proveſt, baillies, and dene of gilde, oblift to wplift the ſame and applie [them] to ſum gude wſ.

Thair wer diueris foirſtallaris within the ſheriffdome, callit and convenit befoir the juſtices, and our charter gewen be king Robert the thrid, being producit anent the puniſching of foirſtallaris, quhilk being ſene, and conſiderit, (and finding that Androu wilſone dene of gilde in ane gilde court, hauldin the ſext of may preceiding hed conwict) [They] ſufferit thame to pas frie from the cenſure, acknowledging that we be our gift haid power ſo to do, and that the onlawes of all foirſtalleris within the ſherifdome, did appertene to this burgh quherſoeuir, or be quhatſumewir judge they ſould be conwict, as at this tyme they did. Quhervpone, inſtrumentis wer taikin and extractit, extant among the tounes wreittis.

May 1630. The quenes maieſtie delyverit of ane man chyld, quha wes baptizit at loundoun, charlis, the 27 of June. In this may wer v ſetterdays, v moundayis, Tua changes of the mone, tua eclipſes of the ſone, ane wther of the mone, all in our horizone. Thair wer no ambaſſadors preſent at the baptiſme of the prince, nor forraners except our awin cuntrie nobillis, ſuch as the duk of Lennox, the marques of hamiltoun, the maior of londoun.

July 1630. The fynes that wer gottin fra our nychbouris at the preceeding juſtice air, wer beſtowit on the redding of the rwynes of the fallen brig of Tay, bigging of croyis for ſaiftie of the toun and inches from the wiolence of the water; and on the bigging of the fron

of fyne ſtone, aiſlair wark, at mounkis tour, on the tounes expenſes, and for caſting of the dok for crewis and boattis, in the winter tyme from danger.

In this ſame ȝeir george hey chancellar of Scotland, wicount of dupline, did big ane twriet, or ſomerhous wpone the head of the rome of monkis tour on the tounes comoun wall, for his pleſure, with ouer-ſycht of the toun, and tollerance, ȝit I think they gaue no tollerance be writ.

July 1631. Thair wes ane great counſall day hauldin at perth with ane conventioune of the burrowis, Andro wilſone commiſſioner.

Sep. David wicount of ſtormont departed this lyfe at Scone, and wes bureit in his awin buriall [place] thair, with great ſolempnitie.

June 1632. Mr John row wes admittit maſter of the gramer ſcole, be the proveſt, baillies, and counſall, without conſent or woatt of ony wtheris; quha affixit ane edict and declaratioun in latine, ane oration de linqua, de ſermone. The miniſteris and preſbyterie preſt to hawe tryd him, but we would not admit it, for the quhilk thair wes much outcrying in the pulpett.

[15] King charlis come to edinburgh, his entrie wes with great ſolemnitie and diveris brawe ſchawis: he wes crownit in halyrudhous the 18 day of June, and [went] thairto from the caſtell, with great pomp, accompanyt with the whole nobilitie in thair robis. The 20 day, the parliament red. Andro Wilſon wes commiſſionar, both to the burrowis and the parliament. At this parliament mr John guthrie biſchop of murray preichit before his majeſtie in ſanct Jeillis kirk, with the ſurples on him, and the engliſhe ſervice red at the Latrone be Inglis men.

Therefter wpone the 8 of July his majeſty come to perth, and wes weill receawit with Ten ſcoir of men for guard, all in quhyte doublattis, and red breikis, with partiȝanes. Mr william bell deliuerit him a

ſpeeche. Mr william wiſchart miniſter at leithe preichit in our kirk to his maieſtie.

Thair wes ane ſuord dance dancit to his majeſtie the morne efter his cumyng, wpone ane iland maid of Tymer, wpone the water of Tay, and certaine wersis ſpokin to his maieſtie be ane boy, repreſenting the perſone of the Riwer of Tay, and ſum conference in his maieſties praiſe betuix Tay and another repreſenting perth, made be Andro wilſone baillie.

Oct. 4. 1634. Auld mr william row miniſter at forgond depairtit.

Oct. 31. Mr Joſephe Lawrie admittit miniſter of perth, be impoſition of handis of miniſtris, niniane Drummond and John robertſone, and be the proweſt, baillies, and counſall of perthe,—mr niniane Drummond preachit. His ſtipend agreit on xiij hundred lx merks.

In Januar 1635 from the 26 day thairof, till the 16 day of februar, thair fell furth ſuche ane hudge snow, That men nor women could not walke wpone our ſtreitis. It wes ten quarter or Tua ellis heiche, throw all the toun. Tay wes 30 dayis frozen ower. Thair wes ane faſt appointed and thair came a gentill thow, bleſſed be God. Thair wes great ſkairſtie of victuall, and elding mylnis gaed not, and thair wes no paſſage nor travelling to bring ony in. At that tyme aill wes waid ſkant. They knokit malt in knoking ſtones.

Aug. 19. Chancellor Hay buried in kirk of kinnoul, Mr James ffoullar maid ſermon.

July 22. 1636. Andro gray, proueſt, departit this lyfe of ane fewar of fywe dayis ſpace, and wes buried the ſaboth thirefter with great grieff of all, both toun and cuntrie. The bellis of the ſteipill rang all the tyme fra the corpis wes liftit till the moulis wer turnit on him in his grawe. [He] leiwit not ane full yeir proueſt.

Andro Wilſone baillie departit this lyfe on ſonday, the 3 day of September 1637 ȝeiris, of ane heiche fywer about nyne hours at nycht, and

wes buried on Tuyſday thairefter. At the lifting of the corpis, the bellis of the ſtepill rang quhill he wes putt in his grawe. He wes 14 ȝeiris baillie and deane of gilde, but intromiſſioun. He deit with greit grieff of the toun and countray. Mr John Robertſone maid his funerall ſermone.

—— 5. Mr Robert lawrie admittit reader and wptaker of the pſalmes, be the proueſt, baillies, and counſall, without conſent of the miniſteris and elderis. Mr Johne robertſone, miniſter, being preſent diſſentit thairfra, and depairtit, and wald hawe hed the full conſent not onlie of the miniſteris and elderis, but alſo of the Archbiſhop of Sanctandrois. George biſſet diſſentit to his admiſſioun as elder, and efter conſentit as councellor. Mr Joſephe lawrie his father compeirit not, becaus his collige mr John refuſſit, ȝit willing.

Therefter the proueſt, alexander peblis, paſt with the counſall to the latrone, and patt mr robert in poſſeſſioun of bayth the places, and deliuerit to him the bybell and pſalme buk in his hands.

Dec. 27. John drummond, deacone of the ſkynners, departit this lyfe, inteſtat, ſuddanelie, and buried on fryday the 29 of december.

Wpone ſonday the 31 of Januar 1638, —— butter of gournok mareit with —— blair, ſecond dochter to ſir Thomas blair of balthyok, knycht, in the kirk of Kynnoul, be Mr Thomas halyburtoun, miniſter at kynnoul, being anes proclaimit that ſame day. The feaſt held in charles Rollokis hous in the vater gait: the laird duelt thair for the tyme.

Wpone ſonday the fourt day of februar 1638, in the kirk of glamis, ane nobill lord, [Henry] Lord car, onlie ſone to the erll of roxburghe, wes mareit with dame margaret hay, onlie dochter to umquhill williame erll of erroll: [they] returnit fra the kirk of glameis with thair nobill freinds on ather ſyde. The feaſt continewit ane gude ſpace, with great ſolempnitie, and paſtyme and mirrines.

Wpone the ſext of februar, being faſtingis ewin, on ane Tuyſday,

1638, the maſter of madertie, callit [David] drumond, wes mareit with —— creichtoun, eldeſt dochter of unquhill Johne crychtoun of Kinved, in the kirk of perth, be ſewin houris in the morning, but proclamatioun or warrant from the biſchopis, be mr Joſephe lawrie, miniſter at perth. The marriage held in the erll of errollis ludgeing in the water gait of perthe.

In februar 1638, the 8 or nynt day thairof, the ſeſſioun ſat down at ſtriviling, and continewit till the —— day of ——. Ȝe may geſs gif the toun of edinburgh wes angrie or not.

Thair wes ane proclamatioun maid be ſound of trumpets at the croce of ſtriviling, for reſſauing of the ſeruice buik, and proteſtatioun tane be the erll of home and my lord lyndeſay, at the croce of ſtriuiling and at the counſell tabill. And lykwais proclamatioun maid be the lyon horrellis for reſſaving the ſame on the 22 of februar, at the croce of edinburgh; quhilk wes impedit be ſewin erlls and nyne lordis.

Feb. 23. —— fauconer, ſpouſe to alexander lindſay of ewelyke, depairtit this lyf, and wes bureit at the kirk of kilſpindie the firſt day of marche 1638.

March 11, 12, 13. The confeſſioun of the fayth and band of the cowenant, wes ſubſcrivit be the proueſt, baillies, counſall, deaconis, and haill inhabitantis of perth, and gentrie reſident thairin, by ſindrie nobillmen, barrones, commiſſionaris of burrowis, and wtheris, that ſubſcryvit at edinburgh.

—— 25. This wes publicklie red befoir none on peax day, being the xxv day of marche 1638, be mr Robert lawrie reader. Mr Johne robertſone preachit, being ane faſt, and the haill kirk and congregatioun tarie ſuorne thairto, be wphaulding of thair hands. Item.—On ſonday thereftir, being the firſt of Apryll 1638, the communion wes giwen be the miniſters in the auld maner, be the miniſter and elderis: the miniſter at the litill tabell, and the elderis at the tua burdis, being

peopill at both ſydes therof, euerie ane tuk the bread firſt off the plait with ther awin hand, and ſine the coup. Nota.—george biſſett and I bure the bread, gregor johnſtoun, and patrick dundie, the coupis, this ȝeir.

Nov. 21. Ane generall aſſemblie halden at glaſgow. The Marqueſs of hamiltoun commiſſioner for the king, quha depairtit befoir the aſſemblie raiſs.

Thomas durhame commiſſioner for perth.

In merche 1639, ane great conflict on the ſea betuix the ſpanis nawie, contening in number fourtie ſhipis, going for aſſiſtance of the toun of Aberdene and the north partis, and the hollanders being bot in number ——. The Spaniſh nawie wes altogidder defeatt, at the pleiſoure of god.

Aug. 12. A new frie generall aſſemblie indictit be his majeſtie, and hauldin this ſame day at edinburgh; my lord Traquair, theſaurer, principall commiſſionar for his majeſtie; quherin the epiſcopall government is abiurit,—the fywe articles of perth, and ſundrie wtheris novations. Patrick dundie commiſſionar for this toun.

Parliament riddin at edinburgh wpon the laſt day of auguſt 1639: Traquair, the commiſſionar for the king, continewit. Robert anderſon commiſſioner for this burgh of perth.

Oct. 1639. In october 1639, thair come in to the vaſtis of Ingland ane greatt nawie, the ellyke hath not bene ſene in thir partis paſt memorie [of] man, about the number of ane hundreth ſchippis, callit the holie lige, conſiſting of the Spaniſh Galeons and from the pope. Ther intention, god knawis, na queſtion to have landit wpone this kingdome. ȝit, at the pleſour of god, they wer defeatt be the hollanders, quherin ther wer greatt ſkayth done be ather of the parteis, ȝit nothing done to the hollanders, in reguaird of the defeatt gewin be thame to the holie lige.*

. . . . . .

* No entries appear for several years.

Wpon the third day of februar 1643, being about four houris in the mornyng, Iſſobell wentoun, relict of wmquhill Johne creichtoun of kinved, depairtit this lyfe, and wes buried in the kirk of perth, wnder the ſcollaris ſeat, nixt auldies buriall. Wpone the 8 of februar, payit thair foir one hundred pounds, quilk wes ordainit be the counſall and ſeſſioun to by ane coup to the communion.

Laurence oliphant of condie depairtit this lyff in edinburgh, and bureit in the kirk of fortewiot, wpone the 16 day of februar 1643.

Wpone the —— day of februar 1643, my lord Car, quha mareit the erll of errollis onlie dochter, depairtit in edinburgh in nycht tyme, efter ane great drink, leawing behind him onlie Tua dochteris, and his Ladie great with chylde.

Oct. 12. ——— pattoun, ſone to eduard pattoun, maried with ——— beattoun.

Nov. 5. The new couuenant, read, ſworne, and ſubſcryvit be the toun of perthe, be ſtanding wp, and euerie man wphalding thair hands. The women alſo wer mowit to ſtande and ſueir.

July 4. 1644. Ane great battell ſtruckin on marſtoun mwre, in Ingland, neir the citie of Ȝork, betuix prince Rupert, ſiſter ſone to king charlis, aſſiſtit be his majeſties forceſs on the [one] part, and be my lord generall fairfalk for the parliament of Ingland, and my lord manchеſter, and be generall leſlie for ſcotland; quherin it wes thocht that the parliament, and ſcotis forceſs and armes, prewaillit mychtilie, and pat prince Rupert to the flicht: quhat number wes killit I knawe not.

It wes thocht thair wes threttie thowſand and ewerie ſyde.

—— 16. Ȝork wes randerit be the erll of newcaſtell and generall king, quha wer for the king, wpone ſuir quarteris, and vairie gude conditiones, to fairfolk and generall Leſlie: bot fairfolk and manchеſter gat the keeping thairof; and the ſcotis gat nane, except ane monethes pay, or thairby.

Thairefter my lord almond, lewetenent generall of ſcotland, and generall leſſie, laid ſedge to newcaſtell for intaking thairof.

—— 25. Murdoche, ſervitour to James ſmyth, headit at the croce, for the ſlauchter of ——— muckrobie, ſewitour to James grahame in drumſyde.

Wpone the firſt of September 1644, being ſonday, thair wes ane great conflict, betuix James marques of montroiſs, for the ſcotis forceſs wnder his auctoritie, beſyde Tibbermuir, on the mures therof, and beſyde landerran and the burrow mure, being aſſiſt be the athoill men of ſir John drumond, lord perthis ſecond ſone, and ſome of the marques awind friendis, and be ane Mr Alexander makconell, brother to the erll of antrim, with xij hundred men of eirſhes, expert ſouldiours, eſtimat in number all to Thrie Thouſand men on the ane part; and be the haill ſheriffdomes of perth, fyff, and wtheris and haill burrowes of fyffe, nobill men and gentrie thairoff, eſtimat to the number of Sex thouſand, weill armit, [and] by Thrie hundreth excellent hors, my lord elcho wes crownear. They were foir, to on with montroiſs.

The battell begane about Tuelff houris, or ane, efternone, and leſtit not half ane hour, quhen the fyff people, both fute and hors, fled beaſtlie, did nawer diſcharge all togidder ance, ȝea, not ane Third therof. Thair wer killed in fleing, aboue viij hundred men of gude account and gentill men, and ſex peice of cannon of the fyff men tane.

The ſpeciall gentillmen that wer killit, namit* . . .

. . . . . .

This ſame nycht, about nyne hours at ewin, The toun wes renderit to the marquis wpone quarteris, bot prejudice of the couenantis, To be frie of plundering, and to leawe as the kingis loyall ſubjectis: his cumpanie quarterit here frie, fra ſonday at nycht, mononday, and Tuyſ-

* A blank occurs in the MS. for the names.

day, many, woddenſay, and Thurſday; he himſelf remainit quhill woddenſay.

It wes ane dear quartering to this burgh, and to the countrie about.

He tuke with him about viij hundred fyffe men, that came into this toun on ſonday at nycht: they wer wardit in the kirk.

Sep. 10. The erll of Lauthianeis regiment cam to this burgh, and quarterit frelie two dayis; himſelf came with thame.

—— 11. The marqueis of Argyll come to this burgh, with great armeis with him, ſtayit quhill ſetterday thairefter, the xiiij thairof. The toun wes greatlie damnefeit in thair meanes, and the cuntrie about.

Culrois company ſtayit heir 7 or 8 dayis, wpone thair awin expenſes. The laird of m^cgregour, with * ———— men, remainit heir als long.

Thair come * ———— furth of dumbartane and the lennox, and remainit heir.

Sep. 13. Fryday. The Toun of aberdene tane in be montrois, great blude ſkeild on both ſydes. God help it, and mend it, in his awin gude tyme.

—— 19. M^cgregour and his companey went furth of this burgh to * ————

Sep. 28. Setterday. My lord maitlands regiment come to perth for kepeing of the toun, and ſtayit quhill the xx of marche 1643, both they and craufurds regiment.

Dec. 16. monday at night. My Lord Lindſayis regiment came to Perth being in number aucht hunder, and ſtayit quhill monday the 23 of december, and we quarterit [thame] in the ſouthgait, and weſt ſide of the watergait; at quhilk tyme both this regiment and my lord Maitlands regiment went furth of perth, and left behind tham tua hundreth men, viz. ane hundreth of my lord Lindſayis, quhairof C— Moncreif wes

* Sic in MS.

Capitane, and the other hundreth of my lord maitlandis quhairof C— Cunninghame wes Capitane.

Jan. 8. 1645. Maitlandis regiment come bak to perthe agane.

—— 9. Lyndeſayis regiment come to perthe agane. The ſoiouris begane to gett tua peckis of maill ilk ane of thame weiklie.

Fra the 28 of September 1644 ane ſoiour of maitlandis regiment, John perſone his name, wes quarterit with me, Till the viij of Januar 1645.

The regiment ſcrywener wes quarterit with me, callit David Staker, fra the ſecund of December 1644, Till the nynt of Januar 1645.

Capitane frances wauchop and his man wes quarterit with me fra the viij of Januar 1645, Till the 22 of marche in eodem anno 1645 gratis.

Feb. 11. Capitane wachope went to couper with a hundred men.

March 15. Setterday at night. He come bak with his man to my hous.

—— 22. Bothe maitlandis regiment and crawfuirdes regiment went furth of perth, with lewtenant generall baillie and my lord crawforde, towardis angous and dundie.

—— Ane number of my lord murrayis regiment come to perth, the ſoieuris being hieland ſimpill bodeis, naikit, extending in number to 250 men.

—— 31. The chancelleiris regiment come to perth in number viij hundred men:

And went furth thairof on Thurſday thairefter the third of apryle 1645.

April 2. My lord caſſilis regiment come to perth and depairtit thairfra, the morne thairefter the 3d of aprill 1645, being in number viij hundred men.

—— 4. Thair came bak to perth of commandit men of this regiment

viij ſcore men quherof quarterit in my quarter ——— with three men that came in of the ſhyre.

Oct. 2. Thair come to perth ane regiment of men extending to 400 men, quherof pitſcottie ſould hawe bene Crownar and ane williame hamiltoun wes maior. The maiſt part diſaſentit that Pitſcottie ſhould have bene thair crownear: and remanit heir till the 19 and 20 day of december.

—— 20. James campbell, Commiſſioner, aberwquhill, mareit with jeane campbell, wmquhill mungo mvrray off laweris eldeſt dochter in the kirk of perth, be mr george halyburtoun, miniſter thair.

Dec. 13. Kenmwris regiment came to perth betuix 11 and 12 houris at nycht being Saturday, in number 400 men:

And depairtit furth therof the xix of December inſtant.

—— 18. Cowpairs regiment came to perth in number —— quherof Lumbisdaill wes Lewtenant colonell and ſtayit quhill the ——— and went out the 10 march being tuyſday, to kincairne.

—— 19. Lawrence merſar of mekilhour buriet honourablie in his awin buriall place, within the kirk of perth, being fryday.

March 10. 1646. Colonell Lyell his men came to perth in number 300 men, and went out the 19th day of march.

The ſame day Cowparis men came bak efter the hous of kincairne wes takin in be middletoun, and brunt.

The ſame tyme the hous of Abererquhill brunt be the m'gregour.

Friday, July 18. Thair wes ane horrible thunder quhilk begane in perth at 5 houris at nicht and laſtit till 2 in the morning.

. . . . . .

Penultimo aprilis 1654. Generall monk come to Stirling, being chieff commander of the Ingliſhe army.

Friday, May 12. This day Cromwall wes proclamit my lord protector of the thrie natiouns of Ingland, Scotland, and Irland, with great

ſolemnitie wpone ane ſtage of tymer richt beneath the court of guard, being hungin with tapeſtrie, being preſent thairon Collonell william daniell gouvernour of perth, The maier, ane Inglis capitaine of hors, John miln maſter of wark for the maſones, Andrew butter preſent proveſt, william reoche baillie, Andro read, Robert arnot, henrie Jackſone, glover, mr Johne nairne, ſheriff deputt, mr william ord, ſheriff clerk, with diueris wtheris.

The act of gras, and ſum wtheris paperis, alſo red be Patrick roſs, and henrie broun, notaris: Proclamed be andro henerie, baxter, be ſound of Trumpetis.

Ane troup of hors, and ſome troupis of drawgounis, ſtude beneath the court of guard foiranent the ſtage; and eftir the proclamatioun endit, gaif fyre thryſe.

The haill fute regiment [that] ſtude in armes aboue the meane guard, gaif fyre. Cannonis wer ſhote, and bonefyres ſet furth that nycht be the gariſone.

Dec. 1655. Being mononday, the greateſt ſtorme, both be ſea and land, that euer wes ſeen or red, quherby all the harberies on the coaſt wer caſtin doun, and many ſhips and men caſt away. At this tyme mr John reoch, ſone to william reoch, baillie, and william murray, wer caſten away comeing from london.

May 6. 1656. The great hous in the citidaill in the ſouthe inche of perth, totalie burnt, with moche gude prouiſions thairintill, ane wnquhencheabill fyre,—how it came wncertaine.

The firſt and ſecund ſondayis of may 1656, the communion gewin in perth be mr williame coling, and mr george haliburtoun.

June 19. Williame ſpence mareit with catharene forbes, in the kirk of perth, with great ſolempnitie; the feaſt held in my ladie ſtormontis.

July 17. John campbell of knokhill, mareit with margaret Pitcarne.

Francis Schairp mareit with Jeane Reoch, william reochis dochter.

March 2. 1657. Mr william lindſay of kilſpindie departit, and buried the 3d thairof.

—— 20. George wilſone, laite baillie, depairtit, and buried 21.

—— 29. Robert Jakſone, preſent baillie, departit on ſonday, betuix 2 and 3 efternone, and bureit the penult, being monenday.

June 4. Henrie Jackſone, millar, ſone to James Jackſone, miller, bureit.

—— 9. Patrik gall, maltman, depairtit, quha maried —— kullis ſiſter, buried 10 thairof.

Nov. 22. William wilſone, ſone to androw wilſone, at the bridge of ern, mariet with —— grant, dochter to androw grant of balhagillis.

Jan. 7. 1658. Gilbert, erle of erroll, maried with my lord Carneggies dochter, ſouthefkes oy.

The ſame day, alexander Bayne maried with the ſheriff clerk of coupars dochter, litilȝohn.

Lord Richard proclaimit protectour of Ingland, Scotland, and Irland, and dominions thairto belonging, be ſounding of Trumpettis on ane ſtare beneath the court of gaird, and wther great ſolempnitie.

Oct. 14. Betuixt ſex and ſewin houris in the morning, Andro Read, merechant, burges of perth, wes drownit in the milnleid, aboue the over miln, betuix the but and the miln, and fundin abone the ouere miln. That ſame day the provinciall aſſemblie ſatt [at] perth. Buried that ſame day, at thrie houris in the efter none.

—— 22. Capitane furde, brother in law to Colonell williame daniell, gouernour of perth, about ellewin houris befoire noone, nane being preſent, except doctor beattoun and the collonellis eldeſt dochter, being ſitting in ane chair foiranent the fyre, efter taking of ane coup of bear going to breakfaſt, ſattled preſentlie down to ground, and depairtit preſentlie, but any words ſpyking, Being of mynde efter ſum phyſic: He haid immediatelie bene in the guarding, walking a litell befoir.

January 30. 1659. —— Huntar of balgay depairtit in perth, being reſident thairin tua ȝeiris or thairby, and tranſportit be water to Dundie, to be buried in his awin buriall place thair, being ane Dundie man borne.

Thurſday, Jan. 3. 1660. Ane williame Imrie, tailȝeor, brother to matthew wilſones wyfe, being diſtractit, did hang himſelf in the nycht, in ane towall, at alexander wilſone hous, his ſiſter ſone, in the water gate.

Dec. 12. Wedneſday, parliament ſat down in edinburgh, midiltoun, wiſeroy.

Dec. 25. Mr John fyfe, miniſter at foullis, ȝule day, and buried the 25 thairof.

January 15. 1661. Rebecca aiſſoun, ſpous to Mr harie chaip, advocat, depairtit, and buried the 16. wedenſday.

March 25. Andro grant, elder of balhagillis, maried with Janet Gray.

June 20. Mr John malcolme ſone to mr John malcolme, miniſter, depairtit, buried 21. fryday.

Nov. 11. Mr John Murray, miniſter at methven, depairtit in his awin hous at methven. Mr Hew Ramſay ſucceedit to him be commiſſioner middletouns moyen.

Nov. 20. William Auchinlek wes maried with Iſobell Grahame, dochter to Orchill.

February 6. 1662. The quhilk day, Crownar keath, brother to the erll of Marſhall, mareit with dame marie hey, dochter to the late erll of Kynnoull, being preſent the erllis of marſchell and mortonn, with many gentrie.

—— 10. The erll of mortoun, Crownar keath, his brother, war maid burgeſſis, with mony vther gentillmen.

—— 11, being Tuyſday. —— Chapman of Lentrodie, buried at the ——

The nynt of June 1662, at v houris in the morning, being Mononday, Andro blair of Corbur mareit with margaret Threipland in Kinnoull, be mr James oliphant.

June 11. 1662. John erll of perth, of the age of iiij ſcore ȝeiris and mair, depairted at Drymen, and buried wpone the ———.

Dec. 18. Mr harie chaip of ormſtoun, advocat, baillie of perth, depairtit, and buried on the 20th day thairof, being ſetterday.

[Sometime in] 1662. John grame of balgoun depairtit, and buried in the kirk of methuen.

The laſt weik of februar 1663, tua boat men brocht to the ſchoir of perth ſome wyne of mr Williame ardis, and depairtit, being chokit with reik in thair awin boat beneath. The laſt of the tua buried the laſt of this moneth, in the gray freiris.

Feb. 27. 1663. Johne bennet, in the muretoun, betuix fywe and ſex houris in the afternoone, beneath the murtoun wes drownit in the vater of Tay. The bell went ſeuerall tymes about for him; and wes buried the firſt of marche, being ſonday, efter the preaching in the efternoone.

—— 21. Margaret hamiltoun, ſpous to Mr Alexander hamiltoun, miniſter at Tibermuir, depairtit; and buried on the twentie fyft thairof, being weddenſday.

March 24. Johne narne, ſone to mr John narne of Muckarſie.

—— 28. Dougall Grame, ſone naturall to the Marqueis of Montrois, burnt in James ȝounger baxteris.

April 15. Wodenſday, katerene ogilvey, ſpous to Mr James Malcolme, miniſter at Airlie, [depairtit.]

June 22. ———, ſpous to Mr James Auchinleck, miniſter at perthe, depairtit.

Aug. 24. Alexander Lindſay, elder of ewelyk, depairtit thair on mononday, and buried on fryday thairefter.

Oct. 17. James Dykes, deane of gild the preceding tua ȝeiris, depairtit at 5 hours at night, being ſetterday, and buried on mononday the nynetene october 1663, in the gray freiris.

Oct. 10, 1664. Mr Geo: halyburtoun demitted his office of the miniſtrie at Perth.

Dec. 10. David Jakſon, baillie, depairtit, being ſetterday, about viij in the mornyng, and buried the ellevent day thairefter, being ſonday.

January 1665. Mr Robert Young, miniſter at dumbarnie, depoſit be [the] Archbiſhop of St Andrews.

Laſt of Februar 1665. Mr henrie oliphant, miniſter at kinnoul, buried at kirk of Kinnoull; [he] depairtit on ſaturday 25th thereof.

April 5. About fywe houris at ewin, George biſchop of dunkell depairtit in his awin hous in perth, and wes buried on the xvij aprill, in the commoun buriall place callit the gray freire; honorablie convoyit with his friendis about the toun. The bells wer rung all tyme, began at ten houris; mr william Annane, miniſter at edinburgh, maid fermon, began at tua houris.

16. Sonday. Mr williame Annane maid fermon befoir noone, and Mr mongo law maid fermoun in the efternoon on the pſalmes, being his firſt fermone.

May 28. Mr Mungo law maid fermone on the pſalme, in the efternoone.

June 1. Mr Mungow law admittit miniſter at perth; Mr Harie guthrie, miniſter at Kilſpindie, maid fermone.

July 9. Janet mercer, my ſiſter, being ſonday, buried, relict of John home, elder, depairtit on ſaturday the 8 day.

The ſewentene of november. Mr John paterſone of benchillis, lait proueſt of perth, depairtit at benchillis, and brocht in vpone the 18th thairof, being ſetterday, and putt in the weſt kirk, and buried on Mononday the tuentie of november 1665.

Nynetene day of november, being ſonday, Iſobell peblis, relict of Mr walter Stewart, miniſter at blair in athoil, depairtit.

June 20. 1666. Fryday. Laurence oliphant of bachiltoun buried in aberdalgie, in efternoone.

May 15. 1667. Wedenſday. Ane capitaine boyd, of the commiſſioners liwe guaird, buried in the gray freiris ; deid of ſchott of ane bullet in his knee, committed be ane boy of the guard, ſervitour to ane captaine of the company. The boy ſufferit thairfoir.

March 5. Mr Hary Auchinlek buried ; the bellis rung.

June 1. At xij houris, Mr James foullar, miniſter at Kynfaunis, depairtit.

Auguſt 8. Johne Tuyes, notar, mareit with Thomas narnes dochter.

—— 10. Setterday. The ladie durie, the wicount of Stormonts ſiſter david murray, convoyit fra perth quher ſcho depairtit, to the kirk of arnegoſk, quhair ſcho wes buried, ane conſiderable number of toune men convoyit her thair.

Nov. 30. Margaret elder ſpous to mr Johne liddell, miniſter at ſcune, buried at ſcune at the weſt kirk door the 1ſt December.

Dec. 6. Dame anna douglas counteſs of Kinnoull, buried in her huſbands tomb betuixt —— and —— houris at nycht, [ſhe] deit of ane gude report.

——17. At thrie houris in the morning James merſer my ſone depairtit, and wes buried on Thurſday thairefter being the nyneteen day thereof.

Jan. 19. 1668. Andro grant ȝounger of balhagillis depairtit thair, and buried on the ———

April 7. Mr william lyndſay, miniſter at —— tranſportit thairfra : Admitted this day : mr william barclay made ſermon, the —— chapter of Iſay, —— vers. Many of the preſbeterie wer preſent.

END OF THE CHRONICLE.

EXTRACTS FROM THE KIRK SESSION RECORDS OF PERTH.

May 1577. Compeared Marion Whyte, and confeſſes her Fornication with John Swenton, and the ſecond fault, and ſubmits herſelf to the diſcipline of the kirk, and civil puniſhment.

Compeared John Swentoun, alleged father to the bairn, who being demanded gif he has had carnall deall with Marion Whyte, within 9 months bygone or thereby; he denied that he had any carnall deall with her within this 2 years bygone; and therefore the ſaid Marion referred to his conſcience to ſwear gif he had carnall deall with her or no by the [ſpace] foreſaid. The aſſembly [Seſſion] aſſigns to the ſaid John, monday next, to give forth his aith thereupon, either negative or affirmative.

May 27. 1577. Compeared John Swentown, and refuſed to give his oath upon the contents of the laſt act, and therefore the aſſembly ordains the kirk to proceed againſt him by admonitions: under the pain of cenſures of the kirk to depone his aith, either negative or affirmative, conform to the laſt act concerning the fornication, confeſt by Marjory Whyte committed with him, to whom ſhe is with bairn, as ſhe has confeſſed and alledges preſently.

June 20. 1577. Compeared John Swentown, and confeſſes his fornication with Marion Whyte, and the ſecond fault, and ſubmits himſelf to the diſcipline of the kirk, and the civil puniſhment, conform to the order; and is ordained to compear before the aſſembly on Monday the 7th of July, to receive his directions for his ſecond fault of fornication.

July 1. 1577. Becauſe certain inhabitants of this town, as well againſt the expreſs command of the civil magiſtrate, as againſt the miniſters prohibitions in the pulpit, have played Corpus Chriſti's play,* upon Thurſday the Sixth day of June laſt, whilk day was wont to be called Corpus Chriſti's day, to the great ſlander of the church of God, and diſhonour to this haill town; and becauſe the ſaid Play is idolatrous, ſuperſtitious, and alſo ſlanderous, as well by reaſon of the ſixth day, * * * * * * * * * *

December 9. 1577. Becauſe that Thomas Paterſon and Katherine Culbert contracted marriage, and the ſaid Katherine will not accompliſh the ſame; therefore (the Seſſioun) deſires the baillies to puind John Wood who was cautioner for the ſaid Katherine for ten pounds, according to the act.

December 16. 1578. Gilbert Robertſon, William Morton, Thomas Rollock, Thomas Jack, John M'Baith, confeſs that they have tranſgreſſed an act made in the aſſembly of miniſters and elders, and ratified by the provoſt and baillies, in that they ſuperſtitiouſly paſſed about the town on St Obertst Even, diſguiſed, in piping and dancing, and torches

* This perhaps may have been one of the well known mysteries, regularly played at Coventry by the Mendicant Friars on Corpus Christi day. One of these still exists in MS. in the Cottonian Library, marked Vespasianus, D. viii. The conclusion of this entry is wanting in the record.

† The editor has not been able to find any Saint of this name. The only Saint's day occurring upon the 16th of December, is that of St. Bean, thus noticed in the Martyrology, "Aberdone in Hibernia Sancti Beani Episcopi." Martyrologium Romanum,

bearing: for the whilk they ſubmit themſelves to the diſcipline of the kirk.

January 11. 1578-[1579.] It is alſo thought meet that the aſſembly make their ſupplication alſo to the Council upon Thurſday, touching the walkars, that no walkar perk their webbs as in times paſt upon Gray Friars Walls.

The whilk day John Swentown maſter of the Sang School of this town, exponed to the aſſembly of the miniſter and elders, that he had great travel in teaching the youth of this town in muſic, and in taking up of the Pſalms, and that the council of the town had made him title of gift to the annuals of the Gray Fraternity altars within this town: yet notwithſtanding he was contented to ſubmit himſelf to the aſſembly of the kirk herein, and receive of benevolence what they pleaſed to beſtow upon him induring his travel and good ſervice,—and becauſe the aſſembly was willing to gratify the ſaid John for his good ſervice; therefore they willed him to diſcharge any right he had or pretended to the ſaid altarage, and to receive of benevolence as they would beſtow upon him. In reſpect whereof, the ſaid John willingly by thir preſents has renuded, and preſently renudes and overgives, all right title of gift he has, or may have, to the ſaid alterage of the Gray Fraternity, given to him by the council of this town, or any other ways, with all letters or executorialls raiſed thereupon. In reſpect whereof, the ſaid aſſembly

Antwerpiæ 1635, p. 439. Upon referring to Dempster, vol. I. p. 66, 78. [Bannatyne Club Edition,] two Saints occur with names so similar that there is good reason for supposing they are the same person, S. Beanus, and S. Boeanus, as he fixes both their festivals on the 16th December, while in the Martyrology there is only one Saint day of that date. It is very probable that this is a mistake of Dempster, arising from the slight variation in the spelling. It is a singular instance of the little knowledge foreign scholars had of Scotland when the compiler of the Martyrology places Aberdeen in Ireland!

of the elders is content, that the ſaid John Swentown intromit with their annuals of their ſaid altarage, induring the ſpace of the year to come, and ſame alſo induring their wills, and according to his good ſervice: providing always that he make no aſſignees to the uplifting of the ſaid annuals, but only to take them up by himſelf; and to this effect the aſſembly ordains the maſter of the hoſpitality to aſſiſt in the uplifting of the ſame as ſaid is.

May 25. 1579. The Aſſembly ordains the Baillies to put Helen —— upon the Croſs Head for the ſpace of an hour, and to pay half ane mark to the poor before ſhe come down, and that for the ſlandering of Thomas Brown.

Thomas Malcom is convicted before the aſſembly, to have called Thomas Brown "loun carll," for the whilk the aſſembly ordains him to be put in the Tolbooth, there to remain two hours, and to pay 6s. 8d. to the poor.

—— 2. 1580. Ordains an act to be made by the Miniſter, concerning diſcharging of all paſſing to the Draggon Hole, ſuperſtitiouſly, and the ſame to be publiſhed on Thurſday next out of the Pulpit, and thereafter to be given to the Baillies, and proclaimed at the Mercat croſs.

The Act.

Becauſe that the Aſſembly of Miniſter and Elders underſtand, that the reſorting to the Draggon Hole, as well by young men as women, with their piping, and drums ſtriking before them, through the Town, has raiſed no ſmall ſlander to this Congregation, not without ſuſpicion of filthineſs after to follow thereupon; for avoiding whereof in times coming, the ſaid Aſſembly, with conſent of the Magiſtrates of this Town, has ſtatute and ordained, that no perſon hereafter of this Congregation, neither man nor woman, reſort nor repair hereafter, to the ſaid Drag-

gon Hole, * as they have done in times bygone, namely, in the month of May; neither paſs through the Town, with piping and ſtriking of drums, as heretofore they have done, under the pain of twenty ſhillings to the poor to every perſon, as well man as woman that [contravene] hereof; and alſo to make their public repentance upon ane Sabbath Day in preſence of the people: and this ordinance to be publiſhed at the Mercat croſs upon Saturday next, as alſo in the Pulpit by the Miniſter, on Thurſday and Sunday next to come, that none hereafter pretend ignorance hereof.

The ſaid act was publiſhed the ſixth day of May at the Mercat croſs, as alſo from the Pulpit.

March 8. 1580. [1581.] Ordains Conſtantine Malis and Iſobell Elder, to make their public repentance upon Sunday next, and further pay four pounds to the poor; becauſe that in time of their public humiliation and faſting, they paſſed up at once to their feaſting and solemnizing of marriage, contrary to all good order.

May 8. 1581. It is ordained, that whoſoever joins carnally together, betwixt the giving up of their banns before the kirk, and accompliſhment of their marriage, ſhall pay forty ſhillings to the poor, and make their public humiliation before the Pulpit, upon the Sunday before marriage.

July 31. It is ordained by the haill Aſſembly, that every flyter convicted flyting, ſhall pay half mark to the poor, ſtand upon the Croſs Head, and make public repentance for satiſfaction of the kirk and party.

Nov. 20. 1581. Ordains all poſſeſſors of altarages to put up their lights in the kirk, and to put up on the Sunday, ane twa penny candle, and the baillies to cauſe this to be done by found of bell through the town, under the pain of not anſwering of their annuals.

* The Draggou's Hole is a large cave in the rock of the Hill of Kinnoul, of very difficult and dangerous access.—(Scott.)

Upon the 21ſt day of this inſtant of February anno 1581–[1582,] Maige Mertyne being put in the Tower aboon the north kirk door, for concealing and hiding of the truth, in the action of M'Walter being adulterer with Maige Paterſon, as was alleged before Duncan M'Gregor, elder for the preſent, Andrew Blythman, kirkmaſter, and John Ronaldſon, officer, ſhe depones that Maige Paterſon ſent her about M'Walter to his own houſe, deſiring her to bring him to her mothers houſe, that the ſaid Maige Paterſon and he might forgadder there; but ſhe would not, but brought him to the ſaid Maiges fathers houſe, and he being brought there, after that they had drunken out the ale that was left over Maiges fathers ſupper, they ſent her [Maige Mertyne] about another pint of ale; and ſhe being gone to the door, Maige Paterſon being naked, her father ſleeping, M'Walter with her put out the light; and in the meantime, ſhe heard the ſaid Maige Paterſon ſay to M'Walter, that "the morn they would tholle miekle ſhame for the thing they were "doing;" and ſhe ſaid, "that they ſhould tholle miekle ſhame for it "on the morne." In the meantime M'Walters wife came [in,] and when Maige Paterſon ſaw her, ſhe put M'Walter up a trap to a loft, and his wife perceiving that, trailled him down the trap, and fell to the ſaid Maige [Paterſon,] and raive her face and her luggs, and ſo there was ſic tumult amongſt them, that Alexander Maiges wife came furth with her maiden, and Henry with a cruiſe in his hand to ſee the matter.

April 16. 1582. Ordains James Sym to give the witch in the tolbooth 8 doits in the day.

May 19. 1582. Compears Iſabell Paterſon, and confeſſes her fornication with Walter Chalmer, dwelling with the Prior of the Charter-Houſe; ſhe is ordained to be put in the ward of the fornicators, above the North Kirk door.

November 20. 1582. Ordains James Sym to make three locks to the Croſs Head.

Ordains John Ronaldſon having fornicators, to put every one of them in ane ſundry houſe in time coming, to give them but bread and ſmall drink; to let none of them come to the nether window, and when they come to the Croſs Head, that they be faſt locked in the irons two hours, their curchies off, their heads and their faces bare, without an plaid or any other covering, under the pain of tinſel of his office.

December 3. 1582. Whilk day the friends of William Farn, who drowned himſelf at the head of the South Inch, in the water of Tay, coming to the miniſter and elders, convened together for the time in their Reveſtry, and deſiring licence at the aſſembly, to bury the ſaid William in the Gray Friars, which is the burial appointed for the faithfull that depart in the fear of God; the aſſembly anſwered with one voice, that they would not ſuffer him to be brought through the town in day light, neither yet to be buried amongſt the faithful, in the place appointed for their burial; but ordains that he be buried in the Little Inch that is within the water, and this to have the ſtrength of an act, to all ſuch like perſons in all time coming, and aſſuring all, that gif any contravene the ſame, the dead ſhall be taken up again, and the contraveners hereof ſhall make their repentance in the ſeat, and thereafter ſhall pay £ 10 to one of the deacons, that they may diſtribute it to the poor.

February 15. 1584 [1585]. Compeared Robert Anderſon, alias Card, and confeſſed his inceſt with Margaret Black, his wife's daughter, who is ordained to make his repentance therefor, and find caution for an hundred [poſſibly merks,] that he ſhall continue therein, who found William Anderſon and Chryſtie Whyte cautioners, to obey whatſoever puniſhment the kirk ſhould enjoin to him.

May 24. 1585. It was ſtatute and ordained, that hereafter induring the time of the plague, no banquets ſhould be at marriages, and no perſons ſhould reſort to bridals under the pain of ten pounds, to be

paid by ilk one that contravenes the ſame; and 40 pounds to be paid by them that call more than four on the ſide to the banquet, or bridal, induring the peſt.

July 5. 1585. Foraſmeikle as Thomas Smith confeſſed his triple fornication with three ſundry women, and now having the laſt woman with bairn again, it is ordained that he ſhall be warded, ſhaven, and doukit [in a puddle of water], according to the act of Parliament.

Oct. 11. 1585. Foraſmeikle as George ——— and Elſpeth Cudbert were both apprehended in naked bed together, in filthy fornication, upon the tenth of this inſtant, being the firſt Sunday of the holy communion, and of public faſt and humiliation, appointed by the kirk to be holily obſerved, that God of his mercy might remove this miſerable plague from this town, and all other towns within this country; and likewiſe that the foreſaid perſons have been both put forth in the lodges, as ſuſpected of the ſame ſickneſs, from the whilk God has preſerved them to this hour: nevertheleſs they have, without fear of God, filthily committed the foreſaid vice of fornication; therefore the haill ſeſſioun ordains the forenamed perſons ſhall be carted backward through the town, from the ſaid Elſpeth's houſe, where they were apprehended, having paper hats on their heads, on Saturday next, at ten hours before noon, and thereafter that they be locked faſt in the front on the Croſs Head, and there ſtand till three afternoon; and thereafter to be warded till Sunday, at what time the officers ſhall convoy them with their paper hats, to the public ſeat of repentance, that there they may confeſs their offence, and aſk God and the congregation forgiveneſs for the ſlander they gave, and evil example to others to commit the like: and this act to ſtrike upon all ſuch perſons whom the watch apprehends in fornication in time of the common humiliation, or any other time in time coming, that vice may be rooted out of this town, and God may bleſs it.

November 7. 1587. Appoints an faſt to begin on Saturday next,

and to continue while Sunday eight days thereafter at even, with great humiliation and prayer to God, that it would pleaſe him to remove the plague of the peſt from the towns of Edinburgh, Leith, &c. and to preſerve us therefrom; as alſo to preſerve us from the peſt of the ſoul, whilk is Papiſtry ignorance, maintained preſently by theſe Jeſuites and Papiſts now come in, who preſſes to bring men under the thraldom of idolatry and ignorance, and from the true knowledge of Chriſt our Saviour, revealed to us in his word, and to embrace their ſuperſtitious rites and ceremonies, from the whilk the Lord preſerve us! And ordains this to be notified from the pulpit on Thurſday next, that none incur ignorance hereof, that every one may addreſs them to faſting, to prayer, and humiliation at the time appointed.

December 11. 1587. Ordains theſe baxters that on Saturday laſt at even, played St Oberts play, to be warded wherever they be apprehended, ay and while, they give their obedience for ſatiſfaction of the kirk and congregation.

February 26. 1587 [1588.] Ordains the maſter of the Hoſpital to make an book of ten quair of paper, to contain and hold the compts of the Hoſpital yearly.

March 4. 1587 [1588.] Whilk day William Fleming being called before the Aſſembly, for reſetting, giving lodging, entertainment, and convoying of the Laird of Fentrie,* an enemy to God and religion, an avowed papiſt and Jeſuite, excommunicate for the ſame, and common trafficker for the ſubverſion of the true religion, whilk was againſt the command of God, and expreſly againſt the rule of his word, and likewiſe againſt the acts made by the Kings Majeſty, and aſſemblies general and particular, eſpecially againſt the act of our aſſembly publiſhed from the pulpit and croſs of this burgh: Being herefore accuſed, anſwered,

* David Grahame of Fentrie, afterwards executed at Edinburgh the 15th February 1592, for treason.

that neither for contempt of God, nor no good rule or act made by the King or kirk, he did the ſame, but rather of negligence, becauſe he was in company of the Earl of Huntly, and was received under his connivance; confeſſing the ſame to have been an fault, promiſes never to do the like in time coming,—and in caſe he be found to contravene in time coming, the penalty in the act contained to ſtrike on him, all excuſe being put aſide; whilk fault the miniſter and elders overſees at preſent, in hopes of amendment.

Nov. 11. 1588. For as meikle conſidering the great ſlander that ariſes of young women taking up houſes, and dwelling together as codrois, and common receivers of honeſt mens ſervants and their gear; it is ordained, that no honeſt man ſhall ſet them an houſe, without the advice of one of the baillies and elders publicly to be allowed, under the pain of the houſe maill to be given to the poor. The perſons as codrois taking up houſe, to be holden and repute as fornicators and entertainers of bordels, and puniſhed as ſuch.

December 7. 1588. Ordains Andrew Anderſon, webſter, to pay ten ſhillings, becauſe the Sabbath day was broken in his houſe, by his wife, in warping an web thereon; and his wife to put herſelf in the repentance ſeat on Sunday next for the ſame.

June 3. 1589. The miniſter and elders gave licence to play the play,* with condition that neither ſwearing, banning, nor no ſcurrility be in it, to the offence of the religion which we profeſs, and an evil example to others:—and in caſe any be in the ſame, or any perſon add any of the ſame, by the Regiſter of Play itſelf, ordains him to be warded, and make his public repentance.

Auguſt 11. 1589. Whilk day Nichol [Ronaldſon,] belman, being called and accuſed for not ringing the curfew and workman bells, at eight hours at even and four hours in the morning, according to the

* Probably Corpus Christi play.

cuſtom and uſe; anſwered, that David Mar had taken away the tow to the brig of Earn. Therefore ordains Robert Anderſon and James Adamſon, to intimate the ſame to the council, to cauſe the ſaid David hing up the bell tows againe, as good and ſufficient as they were, when he took them down.

Oct. 21. 1589. For as meikle as Jean Thornton is an excommunicate perſon, and ſhould not be holden in the company of good Chriſtians that fear God, much leſs to be entertained in bed and board within any honeſt godly man's houſe, to the great ſlander of God, his word, kirk, and this congregation. It is ordained that all the baillies, Robert Anderſon, Oliver Young, Henry Balneaves, and Andrew Mercer, with Adam Anderſon, and Conſtantine Malice, two of the Elders, paſs to Thomas Monipenny preſently, and intimate to him the kirks will, that is to ſay, that he ſeparate and put out of his houſe the ſaid Jean Thornton, under the pain of excommunication, and the ſaid baillies and elders to report the diligence on Monday next, and no other to receive [her] under the pain of excommunication. *

Nov. 2. 1589. Forafmeikle as this day was aſſigned to certain honeſt neighbours of Tirſappie to be preſent, and of their conſcience to declare whether it was true, that ——— Guddal, ſpouſe to Richard Watſon, was a witch, as John Watſon there alleged, or what evil likelyhood they ſaw in her. Walter Watſon, John ——, George Scott,

* Jean Thornton was wife to Oliver Peebles, who was a uſeful elder in the church, and much eſteemed in his time. Some years before she had accuſed the Dean of Guild, Henry Adamson, as having been guilty with her of the ſin of adultery. He denied the charge, nor was it proven by the witneſſes brought by Oliver Peebles. She was puniſhed according to her own confeſſion, and becoming afterwards more abandoned, was at laſt excommunicated. Henry Adamson, Dean of Guild, was some years after this ſtabbed by Thomas Peebles; who perhaps was a ſon of Oliver Peebles by his wife Jean Thornton.—(Scott.)

James Scott, being enquired ſeverally as they would anſwer to God, what they kend,—altogether agreed in one, but [without] contradiction, that they ſaw never ſuch things into her whereby they might ſuſpect her of the ſame,—but that ſhe was an honeſt poor woman, who wrought honeſtly for her living, without whoſe help her huſband Richard Watſon would have been dead, who was an old aged man. Therefore the miniſter and elders ordain the act of ſlander to be put in execution againſt the ſaid John Watſon, and Helen Watſon, his daughter. *

April 27. 1590. David Billy promiſed to make an ladder to the prayer-tolling, for an merk.

July 20. 1590. Ordains Patrick Fleming, David Billy, and Alexander Puller, to buy timber to make an ſubſtantial ladder to the cock-ſtool.

June 21. 1591. Ordains for keeping order in the kirk at the Queens Majeſtys entry, Robert Mathew, Walter Gray, John Pitcairn, James Mercer, Andrew Wilſon, elders, to have the overſight and keeping of the door, that no tumult be made.

June 28. 1591. This day the haill town being occupied in their preparations for the Queens Majeſtys entry in the town, the aſſembly was not holden.

December 20. 1591. Compears Walter Murray in Craigie, and confeſſes his inceſt with Iſobel Gibſon, oye to Iſobel Anderſon his firſt wife, and ſubmits him to the will of the kirk. Ordains him to be preſent himſelf, before the preſbytery on Wedneſday next. Ewin Rynd cautioner of his preſence before the Preſbytery, under the pain of ten pounds.

Compears Thomas Harlow and Janet Grant his wife, and being

* A very proper sentence, and much to the credit of the good sense of the kirk session. It is the more remarkable, as at that period any proof, however slight or trivial, was sufficient to establish witchcraft.

accuſed as ſpecial reſetters, entertainers, and receivers of idle beggars, thieves, and ſuch other unlawful perſons; but eſpecially now of new, beſides placing and putting together in beds, unmarried and unlawful perſons: they confeſſed the ſame,—therefore the ſeſſion ordains him and his ſaid wife on Sunday next, to make their repentance; and in caſe they be found hereafter to receive ſuch perſons in lodging, then to be baniſhed the town.

December 27. 1591. For as meikle as it is ungodly and unhoneſt to abuſe the kirkwalls and kirk yard, by piſſing on the walls thereof, and otherwiſe againſt godlineſs and honeſty uſing the ſame, ſeeing it is a place wherein the defunct corpſe lies below and is buried: Ordains that none abuſe the ſame in manner foreſaid, under the pain [of] two pennies whenever they be apprehended; and this to be intimated on Sunday next from the pulpit.

February 21. 1591 [1592.] This day compeared John Pitſcottie, apparent [heir] of Loncarty, Finlay Errol, ſervitor to the Laird of Balhouſie, [with ſeveral other perſons named in the Regiſter,] and confeſſed that on the Sunday of the faſt, in the time of preaching in the afternoon, they were playing at the ffoot ball in the meadow inch of the muirtoun, and that the ſame was an offence. Therefore they were ordained on Sunday next to make their repentance for breach of the ſabbath.

April 17. 1592. Ordains Adam Adamſon and Patrick Blair baillies, that on Monday next they ſpeak the council, that an muſician be had for uptaking of the Pſalms in the kirk.

January 29. 1592-1593. The Lady Endernytie being called, and accuſed for abſenting herſelf, and the reſt of her family from the hearing of the word on the Sabbath, compears and confeſſes, that ſhe does it not, neither in contempt of the word, or of the miniſter, but only by reaſon

of her ſickneſs, and promiſes when ſhe ſhall be well in health, to repair more frequently to the kirk, and hearing of the word.

Compears Henry Adamſon, and being enquired if he knew any thing concerning the conſpiracy made by the Earl of Angus, confeſſes he knew nothing; and being accuſed for riding on the Sabbath day, confeſſes the ſame, and promiſes not to do the like hereafter.

March 19. 1593. Compear Mr George Ruthven, Andrew Brown, Thomas Lathreels, and John Meling, chirurgions, and being enquired if they or any one of them had any perſons under cure for the preſent who had the goir, anſwered all in one voice they had none; and further, at the requeſt and command of the miniſter and elders, promiſed that if they ſhall have any ſuch perſons under their cure in time coming, they ſhould reveal it to the miniſter and elders for avoiding of contamination, which muſt enſue unto others by their company with perſons in ſuch a diſeaſe.

December 24. [marked September in the Regiſter by miſtake] 1593. Ordains to count and reckon with John Pitcairns wife for the entertainment of an German ſcholar,* and they to be anſwerable to her for his expences and entertainment; and likewiſe ordains at his departure two crowns of gold to be given him, the one to be advanced by Mr George Ruthven, the other by John Jack.

January 7. 1593-[1594]. Becauſe that the ſcholars in time of preaching, by their tumults and running through the kirk, and likewiſe by their clattering and fighting, do trouble both the teacher and the hearers, therefore Oliver Peebles and Patrick Blair, elders, are ordained to propone to the baillies and council the next day of their convention, that an ſeat and place may be biggit for the ſcholars in ſome commodious place of the kirk, where they may hear and learn without troubling either the miniſter in teaching, or the auditory in hearing.

* He is afterwards said to have been a minister sometime in Denmark. (Scott.)

February 24. 1593 [1594]. Foraſmeikle as ſundry, both men and women, in time of preaching on the Sunday in the forenoon, riſe up at the chap of eleven hours, and depart away without the bleſſing, or giving of thanks unto God; therefore for ſtaying and repreſſing of this great enormity in all time coming, which is very ſlanderous, the miniſter and elders ordain the viſitors, both baillies and elders, to keep both the kirk doors, and ſuffer none to depart out of the kirk, before the bleſſing, except they be ſick and evil at eaſe.

September 22. 1595. The Seſſion ordains the maſters of the hoſpital to give an poor boy, called Alexander Martine, ten merks, to help him to an pack for winning of his living.

December 29. 1595. Compears John Spence, who broke the Sabbath by abſenting himſelf from the hearing of the word; as alſo [accuſed for] his unreverent behaviour to the miniſter and baillies being viſiting the families, and therefore ordains him to be committed to ward, while he be humbled, and find caution to do his duty.

Mr George Ruthven, chirurgeon, gives in a bill of complaint upon Archibald Steidman, declaring that the ſaid Archibald had profaned the Sabbath ſundry and diverſe times, by ſhaving and polling, gentlemen and ſtrangers on the Lord's day, as James Stewart of Achmadoes, the Laird of Reidhall, and John Windiegates, hatour to his Majeſty. The ſaid Archibald being accuſed and tryed, is found guilty of the breach of the Lord's Sabbath; and therefore the Seſſion ordains him the next Sabbath, to compear in the place of public repentance, and to declare his repentance for the foreſaid offence.

November 21. 1597. Compeared Mr William Rynd, maſter of the ſchool, and complained that he and his tenants were moleſted by daily reek and ſmoke coming furth of that houſe, ſometimes poſſeſſed by James Stewart; and farther declared, that his own lodging and tenement was in danger of burning, becauſe that the nether houſe under

his land wanted an chimney; and therefore craves, that the Seſſion would ſtay and inhibit any fire to be in the ſaid houſe in time coming; and that the door that is in the midſt, may be ſtuken up, that the chimney which is in the ſouth houſe may ſerve for both the houſes. The Seſſion agreed to his deſire, and ordains the maſter of the hoſpital with all diligence, to cauſe ſteek up the door that is in the midſt of the ſaid houſe, and there be no fire kindled again in the north houſe in time coming.

Nov. 23. The Seſſion ordains the magiſtrates to travel with his Majeſty, to obtain a commiſſion to execute James Robertſon, ſorcerer, who long had been detained in ward.

Jan. 9. 1597–[8]. The Laird of Lawers compeared the laſt Sabbath, *pro quarto*, in the place of public repentance [for adultery].

July 31. Andrew Robertſon, chirurgeon, accuſed of breaking the Sabbath, by poling and raſing the Laird of ———, declared he did it quietly at the requeſt of the gentleman without outgoeing. The Seſſion found him guilty, and ordained him privately to declare his repentance before them, and to abſtain in future.

December 25. The Seſſion ordanes a book to be made, into the which the haill rental of the hoſpital ſhall be written.

Jan. 22. 1598 [9.] William Blyth being enquired why Gilbert Car reſorted to his houſe, anſwered, that he was a common hoſt and entertainer of ſtrangers who reſided there; and that Gilbert came to his houſe as other ſtrangers to get lodgings and entertainment upon his reaſonable expences. Being enquired why he ſuffered Janet Kelt his ſervant to lie in the booth with Gilbert Car, [or ſhop in which were two beds, in one of which Janet Kelt lay with a young laſs of her maſters, and in the other Gilbert Car,] anſwered it was of no evil intention, but becauſe he had no room in his houſe, and he cauſed his daughter to lie nightly with his own ſervant. The ſeſſion thinks this

daughter to lie nightly with his own ſervant. The ſeſſion thinks this doeing to be ſuſpicious, and that he has not done the duty of a Chriſtian maſter to his ſervant, but has done ſo far as in him lay to make her a harlot; therefore ordains him next Sabbath to declare his repentance publicly, in preſence of the haill congregation.

April 9. 1599. Compeared James Young, [town] officer, being warned to this [day;] who being accuſed for profaning of the holy Sabbath, by abſenting himſelf from the hearing of the word, both before and after noon, and being beaſtly drunk, persuing George M'Gregor through the ſtreets publicly with an drawn ſword, to the great diſhonour of God, and ſlander of this congregation,—[he] confeſſes the ſame. George Horn's wife declares, that on the Sabbath was eight days, James Young, with John Murray, came to her houſe and craved drink, and when ſhe refuſed, he drew out his ſword and ſaid he ſhould ſhew her another guiſe, except ſhe gave him drink; and ſo being boaſted, and knowing the diſpoſition of the man, ſhe furniſhed drink to him while twelve hours; and when he was deſired to go home to his own houſe, he went into a cellar, againſt her will, and drank while the ſermon afternoon was ended, and was ſo beaſtly drunken, that he knew not what he did. The Seſſion ordains him to come the next Sabbath to the kirk door, barefoot, and in linen clothes, and ſtand from the ſecond unto the third bell, and thereafter come to the place of public repentance, and there declare his repentance publicly, in preſence of this congregation.

Becauſe that George Horn's wife, furniſhed drink to James Young and his companion, as ſhe alleged againſt her will, and that the cauſe of her being at home in time of ſermon was ſickness, and a diſeaſe in her dad, the Seſſioun deſired her to declare on her conſcience that it was ſo indeed; which ſhe did.

July 2. 1599. Thomas Ritchie confeſſes that he was drunken, for

the which he was ſorry, and promiſes to be more temperate in time coming; and in caſe he ſhall be found drunken at any time hereafter, he is content to pay five pounds, to be employed to the uſe of the poor.

November 19. Compears James Maxton, being warned to this day; and being accuſed for profaning of the Sabbath, by abſenting himſelf from the hearing of the word, and telling of ſilver at home with certain Highland men; confeſſes that he being in the kirk, was ſent for by ſome Highlandmen, who delivered to him a certain ſum of money, to be kept by him while their returning back. The Seſſion finds him by this his doing to be a profaner of the Sabbath himſelf, and alſo an occaſion of profaning the Sabbath to others, whom he ſhould have taught; and therefore ordains him to pay the penalty, according to the Act of Parliament.

John Gardner, James Barman, Laurence Chalmer, and Laurence Cudbert, young boys, confeſs that they were playing at the golf in the North Inch, in time of the preaching afternoon on the Sabbath. The Seſſion rebuke them, and admoniſh them to reſort to the hearing of the word diligently on the Sabbath in time coming, which they promiſed to do.

December 10. Compears Donald Thomſon, with Grizel Robertſon, and confeſſed promiſe of marriage one to another. They were admoniſhed to accompliſh their marriage within forty days, and to keep their bodies clean while the day of their marriage, which they promiſed to do. Further, becauſe the ſaid Grizel is in the houſe with the ſaid Donald, the Seſſion ordains them to ſeparate themſelves, and remain in ſundry houſes while the day of their marriage. For fulfilling of the premiſſes they have found caution, viz. Patrick Bruce for the man, and John Elder for the woman, under the penalty of ten pounds, to be employed to the uſe of the poor.

May 12. 1600. Patrick Gall, Finlay Eviott, John Bennet, Laurence

Robertſon, and Patrick Auchinleck, confeſſes that their ſervants ſpread muck on the Sabbath was eight days, after the afternoon preaching. The Seſſion thinks them to be profaners of the Lord's ſabbath, and their doeing ſlanderous; and therefore ordains them to declare their repentance privily, and pay a penalty, to be employed to the uſe of the poor.

Dec. 1. The viſitors report that the Sabbath was profaned by all the taverners, except John Pitcairn and Henry Balneaves, and that ſtrangers and mercat folks were found drinking in all the taverns. The Seſſion ordains them to be ſummoned and cenſured, for their profanation of the Lord's day.

April 13. 1601. George Murray, accuſed for ſuffering of ale to be ſold in time of preaching on the Sabbath in his houſe, anſwered that he was in the kirk himſelf, and his wife alſo; but his ſervant came, and brought his wife out of the kirk to an daughter of Tullibardines, to give her ſome cloths which ſhe had of hers in cuſtody, and in the mean time cauſed fill drink to the ſaid gentlewoman, and her ſervants with her.* The Seſſion underſtanding the like offence has not fallen out of before in his time, admoniſhed him to keep good order in time coming, and not to ſuffer either ale or wine to be ſold in his houſe, in time of preaching on the Sabbath hereafter, which he promiſed to do.

January 11. 1602. The viſitors report that good order was kept the laſt Sabbath, except that they found ſome young boys playing at the foot ball in the Inch, who were corrected by the magiſtrate.

Janet Syme confeſſes her ſin of fornication, committed with John Barrie, a cripple, at Midſummer laſt, in John M'Duffs houſe, whoſe ſervant ſhe was for the time: and being ſtrictly urged, if any other had carnal dealing with her, or was her bairns father, declared on her con-

* A ſtrange inſtance of the habits and manners of the time—the daughter of the Earl of Tullibardine drinking ale in the forenoon!

ſcience, that none other was the father of her bairn, but the ſaid John Barrie: and likewiſe, the ſaid John Barrie confeſſes he had carnal dealing with the ſaid woman at the time aforeſaid. The Seſſion underſtanding that they are both poor bodies, having nothing either to pay in penalty, or to entertain themſelves in ward, neither yet counted of public repentance, [not counted objects of church diſcipline] therefore ordains them to be put in ward, while Saturday, on their expences, and then to be taken out by Archibald Steidman, and John Jack, officiars, and preſented to the magiſtrates, that they may be carted about the town together, and thereafter to be baniſhed.

November 2. The Seſſion ordains the Maſter of the Hoſpital, with all diligence to cauſe make an common mort kiſt, whereby the dead corpſes of the poor ones may be honeſtly carried unto the burial.

Auguſt 1. 1603. Becauſe that Elſpit Grant dwells by herſelf, keeping an houſe for whoredom, and has fallen before in the ſin of adultery, and lately in fornication, and that, after ſhe had declared her repentance, has received harlots into her houſe, making her houſe as it were a Bordel, and a common receptacle of looſe and debauched perſons, therefore the Seſſion ordains her preſently to be put in ward, there to remain while ſhe find caution to remove out of the town.

January 2. 1604. The viſitors report that good order was keeped the laſt Sabbath, except that they found ſome young boys playing at the gowf in the North Inch, in the time of preaching afternoon, who were warned then by the officiars, to compear before the Seſſion this day.

Compears Robert Robertſon, William Stenis, Andrew Donaldſon, Alexander Niving, Adam Paul, Robert Meling: all warned to this day, who were convicted of profaning the Lord's Sabbath, by abſenting themſelves from hearing of the word, and playing at the gowf, in time of preaching; and therefore the Seſſion ordained, firſt, Robert Robert-

ſon, who was ringleader to the reſt, to pay an merk to the poor, and ſecondly, ordains him and the reſt to compear the next Sabbath, into the place of public repentance, in preſence of the whole congregation.

April 23. The Seſſion ordains intimation to be made by the miniſters the next Sabbath publicly out of the pulpit, for a contribution to be made, for the ſupport of the town of Geneva.

May 7. Aliſon Henderſon was convicted of abſenting herſelf, this year from the examinations, and communion, and therefore was rebuked.

David Chapman was convicted of profaning the Sabbath by going to Ruthven, to ſee profane and laſcivious dancing, and abſenting himſelf from the hearing of the word, and therefore was rebuked.

July 16. Whilk day anent the complaint given in by an noble lady, Dame Mary Ruthven, Counteſs of Athol, upon Mr William Cowper miniſter at Perth, touching the contracting by him of Mrs Dorothie Stewart her eldeſt danghter, with William Murray, maſter of Tullibardine without the advice and conſent of the ſaid noble lady, and her honourable friends, as the complaint given in thereupon at length bears, which being read and the ſaid Mr William Cowper made anſwer thereto, and removed; the Seſſion all in one voice finds the ſaid Mr William's proceedings orderly done, and has allowed and approven the ſame.

September 3. It was reported that there was a number of young women and laſſes, after ſupper in the evening, [of the Sabbath] found under ſtairs, dancing, ſinging, and knocking upon doors, who were warned to this day.

Compeared Agnes Anderſon, Agnes Murray, Elſpeth Roſs, Kirſtian Paterſon, Janet Low, Beatrice Clink, Helen Blyth, all warned to this day, and confeſſed that they profaned the Lords Sabbath, by laſcivious ſinging, and dancing, at even, under ſtairs, for the which they were

ſorry, and promiſed never to commit the like. The Seſſion ſha ply rebuked them, and deſired the magiſtrates to put them in ward.

October 3. Whilk day, in preſence of the baillies, miniſters, and elders of the burgh of Perth convened within the reveſtry of the ſaid burgh, William Hay, litſter, burgeſs of Perth, being accuſed upon the uttering by him yeſternight, in John Stewarts fore chamber, of certain vile, ſlanderous, and abominable ſpeeches, againſt Mr William Cowper miniſter of Christs Evangell, at the ſaid burgh, to wit, "That "the ſaid Mr William was an falſe common thief, and that he ſhould "[have] been hanged, and were it not the ſaid William Hay, he had been "hanged, and yet he ſhould have him hanged; who would not? and "who would take his part? and that he ſhould improve him in the "Scriptures." Thir ſlanderous ſpeeches uttered before Patrick Fleming, merchant, William Robertſon, notar, John Robertſon, merchant, Thomas Fleming, ſon to the ſaid Patrick, John Gall, and James Marſhall, merchants; whereto the ſaid William Robertſon anſwered, "Mowis [jeſt] or earneſt," whereto the ſaid William replied, "earneſt," and bad the ſaid William Robertſon take it as he thought it. To the which, he [William Robertſon] replied again that "he lied like a knave." Thereafter the ſaid William Hay drew an whingar and preſſed to have ſtricken the ſaid William Robertſon, and called him an common thief. Farther, being accuſed, if he ſaid "Mr William Cowper was paſſing to "England to London, and ere he came home, would wear an ſurplice "and an four nooket bonnet." All thir particular heads above written the ſaid William Hay being accuſed upon, but granted, that it was in mowis that he ſpake anent Mr Williams hanging; and farther denied that he called him common thief, and alſo denied that he ſaid, he ſhould improve him in the Scriptures: But only ſaid, that Mr William ſhewed no pity to the poor man that was in ward; and the ſaid Patrick Fleming, John Robertſon, John Gall, and James Marſhall, being called,

ſworn and admitted in preſence of the ſaid William Hay, to teſtify the verity in the ſaid matter, nothing being objected againſt them; and each one of them being ſeverally examined, deponed that they heard the former ſlanderous and abominable ſpeeches uttered by the ſaid William Hay againſt the ſaid Mr William [Cowper] and William Robertſon. Farther, the ſaid baillies declared that this day in the morning, before eight hours, when this matter came to their knowledge, they took purpoſe to take and apprehend the ſaid William and put him in ward: and having apprehended him within his own dwelling houſe, and accuſed him upon the ſaid ſlanderous ſpeeches, they heard him anſwer and ſay, that he ſpake ſuch ſpeeches, but in mowis. The Seſſion [reſolves] to be adviſed upon the premiſſes with the preſbetry.*

October 29. Becauſe that Mr John Weims, ſometime muſician, was very faithful and diligent in his ſervices, during the time of his life, and now being taken away by death, has left behind him an poor widow, and an young infant. Therefore the Seſſion has ordained, and by thir preſents ordains Patrick Fleming, maſter of the hoſpital, to give to his wife and bairn, four ſcore of pounds, of the firſt and readieſt duties appertaining to the hoſpital, which ſhall be thankful allowed to him in his accompts of the hoſpital.

November 5. The Seſſion ordains the maſters of the hoſpital to furniſh an new gown of black cloth, to Mr Patrick Johnſton, teacher of the youth in the grammar ſchool.

September 23. 1605. Becauſe that the ſins of fornication and adultery, do encreaſe more and more among us, to the great offence and diſhonour of God, and ſlander of this congregation; therefore, for repreſſing of thir ſins, the Seſſion ordains a more public place of repentance to be biggit, with all diligence, and in it certain degrees, that

* The presbytery records prior to 1618 not being extant, it does not appear what advice was given.

therein fornicators and adulterers may be diſtinguiſhed, and better diſcerned, both by their place and habit.

October 21. Mr James Young, muſician, declared in preſence of the Seſſion, that he was contented to accept the office of taking up of the pſalm, publickly into the kirk at preaching and prayers, and inſtructing of the youth in the art of muſic. The Seſſion promiſed to him yearly, induring his ſervice in the ſaid office, the ſum of four ſcore pounds, with his chalmer meall, and this to be paid by the maſters of the hoſpital, termly or quarterly, as the ſaid Mr James ſhall require it.

January 12. 1607. This day being aſſigned to Mr William Cowper, to prove by witneſſes the ſlanderous ſpeeches uttered by Robert Keir againſt his preaching. Compeared Robert Fleming, warned to this day; and Robert Keir being enquired if he had any thing to ſay againſt Robert Fleming, why he ſhould not be witneſs in the matter and cauſe foreſaid? anſwered he had nothing. Robert Fleming being admitted and ſworn, declared, that when he came to Robert Weir, as treaſurer, and deſired him to pay for the miniſter's coals, he anſwered, "Mr William preached againſt me the laſt day. Let him preach againſt me the "next day. The devil a penny I will pay for coals." The Seſſion called the ſaid Robert, and deſired him to confeſs his offence, which he refuſed to do; and therefore the Seſſion remitted him to the Preſbytery.

March 28. 1608. The viſitors report, that good order was keeped the laſt Sabbath, except that ſome craftſmen were playing at the foot ball in the South Inch, after the afternoon's preaching, who were warned to compear before the Seſſion.

[The Seſſion remitted them to the magiſtrates, to be puniſhed according to the act of Parliament.]

May 9. Becauſe that Patrick Fleming has departed this life, therefore the whole Seſſion, with one conſent, has nominated and choſen John Brown to ſucceed him.

February 13. 1609. Compeared Andrew Johnſton, and Janet Cunningham, his ſpouſe, James Jackſon, and ——— Stobie, his ſpouſe, David Jackſon, and Helen Hynd, all warned to this day; and being enquired, why they went out diſguiſed about the town on Tueſday laſt Ives, at ten and eleven hours at even, with ſwords and ſtaves, troubling and moleſting their neighbours on the ſtreet whom they met? anſwered, that after they had all ſupped together, they had reſolved to go about the town, of no evil purpoſe or intention, but of merrineſs; and denied that they moleſted any. They being removed, it was certainly found that they were diſguiſed, namely, Andrew Johnſton's wife having her hair hanging down, and a black hat upon her head. Her huſband, Andrew Johnſton, with a ſword into his hand. David Jackſon having a mutch upon his head, and a woman's gown, as Conſtantine Malice, Baillie, and ſundry others declared,—and that they hurted and moleſted ſundry perſons. The Seſſion finds their doings to be ſlanderous, and that becauſe the peſtilence yet continues amongſt us: and all thir perſons lately come in from the fields, where the botch and boyll was on their perſon: and has ordained them to be condignly puniſhed; firſt, to be put in ward preſently, there to remain alltogether while the Sabbath; and next, becauſe their fault is public and notorious, to come all together the next Sabbath, in linen cloaths, to the place of public repentance, their to confeſs their heinous offence, and to be rebuked as diſſolute and licentious perſons, in preſence of the whole congregation.

June 18. 1610. Compeared Alexander Crighton, who was convicted by his own confeſſion, of haunting and frequenting the company of Robert Crighton, excommunicate Papiſt, eating and drinking with him in taverns, and walking on the ſtreet: therefore the Seſſion ordained him to declare his repentance publickly the next Sabbath, in his own ſeat.

October 20. 1611. Becauſe Janet Lockhart has taken upon her the office of a midwife at her own hand, without tryall upon her ſkill, and

without licence, and has conſpired with others to conceal the ſin of adultery, and other wickedneſs, therefore the Seſſion ordained her to be rebuked publicly by the miniſter the next Sabbath, and to be inhibit from medling with the office of an midwife in time coming.*

November 4. 1611. Compeared Margaret Rutherford and Elſpeth Gloag, midwives, who gave their oath of fidelity, to be faithful and honeſt in their calling: and farther, it was enjoined to them, under the pain of diſcharging them their office, that they ſhould not help any woman ſuſpected of whoredom, and who was not married to an huſband, except that firſt they got their confeſſion, with a ſolemn oath, to whom the bairn appertained, and who was the bairn's father. Which they promiſed to do, with a ſolemn oath and extenſion of the hand, in preſence of the whole Seſſion.

Nov. 11. Compeared James Ferguſon, who declared that he was out of the kirk on Sunday was a fifteen days, in time of preaching before noon; and was in Walter Youngs houſe, where he ſaw John Firſkine, and Hugh Firſkine playing at dice, and the ſaid John Firſkine won fourteen merks from the other, and that they drank an quart of wine at the dinner, where Walter Young, goodman of the houſe, was preſent.

Compeared Walter Young [who was a baker,] and being enquired how he, being a deacon of the kirk, ſuffered ſuch enormities and profaneneſs to be in his houſe, as dicing and drinking, in time of

* She had privately delivered a gentlewoman of a baſtard child, and concealed it. The woman in whoſe houſe the child was born, laid her hand upon the child's mouth, with a purpoſe to ſmother it: But Janet Lockhart made her deſist, by ſaying that ſhe would go inſtantly, and awaken the whole town, if ſhe were to do ſuch an action. The woman in whoſe houſe the gentlewoman had gone to be delivered, gave the child afterwards in a private manner to a nurſe, and received money for the nurſe privately from the father, who was a married man. Janet Lockhart made the gentlewoman declare who was the child's father, before ſhe would give her aſſiſtance in her labour. (Scott.)

preaching on the Lord's day? Anſwered he knew no ſuch thing, becauſe he was into the kirk himſelf, and his wife remained at home. He was deſired to preſent his wife before the Seſſion. He anſwered he would anſwer for her himſelf, and ſo menaced the beadle of the kirk; and therefore the Seſſion requeſted the magiſtrates to put him in ward, there to remain while he ſhould be better humbled.

July 6. 1612. The viſitors report that good order was keeped the laſt Sabbath, except that they found Iſobell Murdoch drinking with an Highland man in time of preaching, for which ſhe was committed at the command of the magiſtrates to ward.

April 10. 1615. Peter Simpſon and Margaret Liddel ratified before the Seſſion their promiſe of marriage, to be ſolemnized conform to the ordinance of the kirk, and thereupon conſigned two cups of gold.

February 1. 1616. Patrick Crombie, conform to citation having compeared, and being accuſed, that he uſurping authority and command over the common beggars, they reſorted to him from all parts to this pariſh, to the planting of many beggars of other pariſhes, to have their abiding here within this congregation, who denied the ſame ſimpliciter, and is ordained to compear the next Monday for farther tryal to be taken thereanent.

—— 5. Compeared the foreſaid Patrick Crombie, and being examined anent his foreſaid uſurpation, denied the ſame ſimpliciter, yet was verified by honeſt reporters, the great reſort of common beggars to the Muirtown to him. The Seſſion ordain requeſt to be made to the Laird of Muirton, to remove the ſaid Patrick furth of his ground, and that he have no reſidence within this pariſh.

June 24. John Tenender, [ſeſſion] officer, is ordained to have his red ſtaff in the kirk on the Sabbath days, therewith to waken ſleepers, and to remove greeting bairns furth of the kirk.

February 20. 1617. The Seſſion has appointed David Sibbald to

be maſter of work to the reparation of decayed parts of the ſteeple, and to receive furth of an cheſt containing the Hoſpital writs, the ſum of twenty pounds, left over the laſt collection, lifted for reparation of the kirk, and help to repair the ſaid ſteeple therewith.

March 3. The Seſſion thinks it very expedient, that the council and they concur, for providing an muſician, for taking up of the pſalms in the kirk, and for teaching of an muſic ſchool.

—— 14. Foraſmeikle as Mr Thomas Garvie, muſician, this long time bygone has not been apt nor habill to diſcharge his office, in taking up of the pſalms in the kirk at preaching and prayers, whoſe place Mr Henry Adamſon * has ſupplied, and is very well thought of by the Seſſion; they requeſt him to continue therein, while further deliberation be taken thereanent.

April 7. Ordains an chair of ſtone to be bigged in an public part by the maſters of Hoſpitals, for ſetting of flyters and ſlanderers therein, and the ſame to be paid of the firſt caſualties occurs.

Foraſmeikle as Mr John Guthry, miniſter, having produced before the Seſſion, an teſtificate of the Lords of Council, ſhewing that John Mortoun, ſkipper in Leith, and twenty-ſeven perſons of his kippage, with his ſhip and goods, were taken perforce by the Turks gallies; and in the combat betwixt them ſeven of his kippage were ſlain, and the remaining twenty-one were taken to Argier in Barbary, and were relieved by finding William Phriſilla, factor for Engliſhmen in Argier, cautioner for them, to pay an certain great ſum of money for their ranſom, extending to one thouſand three hundred and twenty-nine pounds Sterling money, containing alſo an ſupplication directed to all Aſſemblies, Seſſions, &c. to extend their charity, to help to pay the ſaid ran-

* The above Mr Henry Adamson rendered his name famous in Perth, by his Poem concerning the History and Antiquities of Perth.—(Scott.) It was printed at Edinburgh College, 1638, 4to.

ſom for the relief of the ſaid cautioner, becauſe he has been very favourable to ſundry Scottiſhmen in the like caſe of before, in due conſideration thereof, the Seſſion ordains an voluntary contribution, the next convenient Sabbath as ſhall be appointed by them for that effect.

April 21. Ordains admonition to be made the next Sabbath, that none of the congregation paſs to the well of Huntingtower on the Sabbath days, and likeways that no dancing be under ſtairs on the Sabbath day.

May 12. Conform to citation, compeared James Blyth, and was admoniſhed to abſtain from exceſs of drinking, wherewith he has been found oftimes ſpotted, and from night walking. Promiſed ſo to do under the pain of ten pounds, toties quoties, he contravenes.

Foraſmeikle as Mr Henry Adamſon having moved him to the Seſſion, that he has ſupplied the place of Mr Thomas Garvie, in taking up of the pſalms a long time bygone; and that Mr John Adamſon, his brother, had written for him ſome matter tending to his behoof, therefore deſires the Seſſion either to appoint him to the ſaid cure, ſeeing that the ſaid Mr Thomas is not habill therefore; and that otherwiſe he will not ſerve longer in his ſtead. The Seſſion finding the ſaid Mr Henry's propoſitions reaſonable, and that he is qualified for ſerving the ſaid cure, for their part are willing he be provided thereto; and have requeſted John Anderſon and William Williamſon, baillies, to expone the ſame to the Council, and to report their anſwer thereanent the next Monday, wherethro' the ſaid Mr Henry may be orderly placed in the ſaid ſervice both by Council and Seſſion.

May 26. In reſpect of the literature and qualifications of Mr Henry Adamſon, for taking up the pſalms at preaching and prayers, at the kirk of Perth, and his lawful admiſſion thereto, and to hold an muſic ſchool, the Seſſion provides and ordains him to have yearly therefor, from Whitſunday next, in name of his ſtipend, the ſum of

two hundred merks money of this realm, to be payed by the maſters of the hoſpital, preſent and to come, yearly, at two terms in the year, Whitſunday and Martinmas, by equal proportions.

Auguſt 25. Forafmeikle as delation being made of James Stewart, hangman, his vicious life, and of the cruelty and oppreſſion uſed by him againſt poor weak perſons, therefore it is ordained that the ſame be intimated to the Council, that they and the Seſſion may take order thereanent.

October 30. It being reported to the Seſſion, that —— Henderſon ſuppoſed to be bereft of her wits, is but counterfeit and feigned therein; and that under colour thereof, ſhe makes vantage, and abuſes her body in harlotry; therefore the Seſſion has concluded that ſhe be expelled of the town; and for that effect, John Tenender, officer, has received command of Robert Lethem, baillie.

May 4. 1618. Conform to citation, compeared Iſobel Garvey, ſervitrix to Margaret Alexander, widow, and Margaret Lamb, daughter-in-law to George Thomſon, who being aſked if they were at the well in bank of Huntingtour the laſt Sabbath, and if they drank thereof, and what they left at it? anſwered, that they drank thereof; and that each of them loſt an prin [pin] thereat. Whilk was found an point of idolatry, in putting the well in God's room. The form of their cenſure continued while the reſt, whom they have given were preſent with them, compear.*

December 28. Thomas [Baxter] being aſked if he be now reſolved to confeſs the truth, if he had carnal deall with Agnes Black, which ſhe has already confeſſed,—he conſtantly denied as of before. Being humbled on his knees, and being taught to pray in this manner, viz. "Lord be merciful to me, and inſpire me with thy grace, where-

* They were each fined six shillings, and made on their knees to declare their repentance, and they would not do the like again.

" through I may be moved to confeſs the truth in the ſaid matter of " ſlander, to the glory of God, and my own ſalvation :" thereafter having riſen on his feet, and being required to confeſs the truth as he wiſheth the ſalvation of his own ſoul ; yet for all that, he ſtood at an obſtinate denyal. And being aſked if he would, by his great oath upon the ſalvation and condemnation of his ſoul, purge himſelf thereanent ? He ſaid he would, and thereupon a book being holden to him, to try if he would lay his hand thereon ; as he was extending furth his hand thereto, the miniſter withdrew the book from him, and would not ſuffer him to ſwear. The Seſſion knowing him by all good appearance, to be guilty of ſaid crime, notwithſtanding of his denyal, ordain him to be committed to ward induring their will, to know if that will bring him to confeſſion, and ordains Patrick Murray and his wife, his dilaters, to be warned to the morn to declare ſo far as they know of the ſaid ſlander.

December 28. Foraſmeikle as dilation being made, that Katherine Graham, an coddroch huſſy, keeped an houſe by herſelf, and that an highland fallow reſorted to her when he pleaſed, and thereupon, conform to citation, having compeared and brought with her two young children. Being aſked who is the father of them ? anſwered Donald M'Challan, highlander, and that the eldeſt of them was procreate betwixt them ſix years ſince, within this pariſh, and that ſhe had ſatisfied the kirk therefore, and the other was procreate betwixt them in the highlands. Denies that he had to do with her at Perth at no time ſince the birth of her youngeſt child ; and becauſe ſhe is a ſtranger and an coddroch, ſhe is ordained to diſpatch herſelf out of the town, betwixt this and Candlemas, under ſuch pains as they will enjoin to her.

Auguſt 23. 1619. Foraſmeikle as William Marſhall, an auld doyted man, has confeſſed his adultery with Janet Ramſay, and becauſe that his compearance publickly in ſackcloth at the kirk door and repentance ſtool, would be an reproach to the town ; therefore it is thought expe-

dient that he be put in ward, and detained therein, ay and while, he willingly conſent to be baniſhed this town for ever.

September 13. 1619. Foraſmeikle as Mr John Guthry, miniſter, having made an great regret of Thomas Young, in that he has not only uttered ſpeeches againſt him and his miniſtry, but alſo that he has met him divers times ſince on the cauſay, and would not diſcharge that civil duty of ſalutation, as becomes him to his paſtor; and alſo that immediately heretofore, as he was coming to the Seſſion, meeting him in the northmoſt of the kirk vennels, that the ſaid Thomas, in manner of provocation, to tempt his paſtor by his want of particular duty, paſſed by him without uſing any kind of reverence; wherewith the Seſſion were highly offended, that he ſhould have ſo far miſregarded his paſtor, and provoked him to ire, and therefore ordains him to be cited to compear before them the morrow after the ſermon, to underly condign cenſure for his ſaid offences.

September 14. Conform to citation, compeared Thomas Young, who being accuſed for uttering ſpeeches, and his miſbehaviour againſt Mr John Guthry, his paſtor; and being aſked what ſpeeches he ſpake to John Guthry, the paſtor's son? anſwered, that he ſaid to him, "that it was not the duty of the paſtor, to charge his people with "witchcraft, ſorcery, turning of the riddell, and to utter calumnies "againſt his flock." This he had ſpoken in general, and no ways mentioned the ſaid Mr John his name, which John Guthry had taken very highly, as he had ſince found no courteous dealing of him; and having yeſterday entered unawares the miniſter's way, meaning no ways to offend him, but he ſuddenly paſt by. Being enquired, if he had any opinion that the miniſter had at any time grieved or offended him in word or deed? anſwered negatively. Declared that he is ſorry for that in any ſort he had ſaid or done, which may offend the miniſter in word or deed. The ſaid Mr John, in preſence of the Seſſion, having admo-

niſhed the ſaid Thomas Young, earneſtly dealt with the Magiſtrates and Seſſion preſent, to inflict no puniſhment on the ſaid Thomas, but to paſs by his offence, in hope of his honeſt and Chriſtian behaviour hereafter, which, at his earneſt entreaty, was granted.

June 5. Foraſmeikle as delation being made that John Brown, gardner, permits men to play at the alye bowlls in my Lord Sanquhars yard the time of the ſermons on the Sabbath days, therefore he is warned to compear the morrow, for taking convenient order with him thereanent.

June 12. Whilk day Thomas Crombie, baillie, preſented Alexander Wilſon in Muirton, who is accuſed for his great inſolency and miſbehaviour, in that he, upon an Sabbath day at night, betwixt ten and eleven hours, preſſed to miſuſe Giles Laing, in her returning from convoying of Thomas Leiſks wife home to her houſe; terrifieng Robert Robertſon's daughter; ſtruggling with Mathew Cheap's ſervant in the kirk yard; and that having entered within the kirk he rung the common bell, thereby putting the haill town under fear either of fire or ſword. His offences being ſo great, he is committed while the morrow, that after the ſermon, both Council and Seſſion deliberate upon his puniſhment.

July 5. Compeared Janet Mar, ſpouſe of John Patoun, ſometime in Pitmurthly, and now in Balnebreich, and confeſſed the ſin of adultery, committed by her with Harry Schaw of Pitmurthly, and that he raviſhed her, againſt her will in his barn, when ſhe was getting ſtraw to fill her bairns cradle. He ſteeked the door, and wreſtling with her, ſhe got a grip of his durk, almoſt drew out the ſame; and he thruſting it in again, bled her hand, and made a great wound into it. This was committed ſeven years ſince, or thereby. She being demanded by the brethren, how was the ſlander raiſed, now lying ſo long hid? ſhe anſwered that the ſaid Harry himſelf revealed it to one Catharine Weymes, his harlot, who bore him two bairns in fornication; the ſaid Catherine

Weymes told the ſame to Grizzel Saunders, the ſpouſe of John Gregor in Pitmurthly, and the ſaid Grizzel Saunders revealed the ſame to her huſband, who will have her to make her repentance for the ſame. She promiſes to obey in making her repentance, for removing of the ſlander.

12. July. Harry Schaw ordained to be ſummoned.

19. —— Mr William Young, miniſter at Rogorton, reports that John Bennet, beadle of Rogorton, ſummoned Harry Schaw, but he declined appearing, upon the ground that being in debt within burgh he durſt not compear. Commiſſion was then granted to Mr John Straquhan, miniſter at St Martins, and Mr David Weymes, miniſter at Sone, to try him, and to report.

Theſe two clergymen repeatedly reported there inability to get Schaw before them.

13. day of September. Mr William Young complains, that upon Thurſday the 7th September inſtant, being among the ſtouks of his own glebe, in an ſolitary and quiet place, called the How of the Park, at his meditations in quiet and ſober manner, looking for no evil to have been done or ſaid to him by any perſon or perſons, but to have lived under God's peace, and our ſovereign Lord's,—in the mean time, the ſaid Harry Schaw of Pitmurthly, having conceived an deadly hatred againſt him for reporting the adultery, of ſet purpoſe, proviſion, and forethought felony, violently invaded and purſued him of his life, having in his hand a rung, with a long dirk, or elſe a dagger; and the ſaid Mr William Young ſeeing him in a rage, and threatning of his life, ran away, the ſaid Harry following him a great ſpace, and crying, "Theif, thy feet ſhall not bear thee from me." The ſaid Mr William Young being an aged man, and fearing he ſhould have felled him with the rung, cried many times, "God's mercy." The ſaid Harry overtaking him, called him "traitor," and aſked him what he ſaid of him to the Preſbytery? And when Mr William anſwered he might ſpeir

at Mr John Straquhan his good friend, the ſaid Harry Schaw commanded him to ſwear, that he ſhould never ſpeak of him again to the Preſbytery, or by the blood of Jeſus he ſhould preſently die. He with great difficulty was ſtayed from farther troubling of him, by ſome poor men that came from ſhearing of their corns. Immediately thereafter, the ſaid Harry made vaunt of his doing to his own ſhearers, and openly declared, that he had cauſed the miniſter ſwear, and cry many times, "God's mercy."

The Preſbytery ordain information to be ſent to the Archbiſhop of St Androis, to raiſe a ſummons againſt Schaw before the High Commiſſion.

Oct. 18. Schaw appeared, and confeſſed the aſſault; upon which he was ordained to make his public repentance in the kirk of Rogorton, one day in linen cloaths, and there openly confeſs he did the miniſter wrong, and that on Sunday next. Mr John Guthry was inſtructed to ride to Rogorton, teach there on the Sunday, receive the ſaid repentance, and confront Schaw with Janet Mar as to the alledged adultery.

—— 25. Mr John Guthry reports, that Schaw obeyed the ordinance enjoined; but upon the charge of adultery he would not confeſs, but denied, and offered his oath.

Nov. 1. He failed to compear, upon the ground of ſickneſs; but upon the 8th of that month, in linen cloaths, and humbly on his knees, he confeſſed the adultery, and promiſed to ſatiſfy the kirk.

Nov. 21. Andrew Roſs,* in name of Mr Robert Roſs, ſometime of Craigie, his brother, produced the latter's ſupplication, ſhewing his preſent miſery, and divers diſeaſes wherewith he is vexed, and craving ſupport. Three pounds were taken out of the theſaury, and delivered to the ſaid Andrew to give his brother.

Dec. 5. Compeared John Lamb, and is accuſed for profaning the

* A brother of the unfortunate Thomas Ross executed for the pasquil against the Scots.

Sabbath, in playing at the leads with his complices, the time of the afternoon's ſermon, the laſt Sabbath. He having uſed many ſpeeches to cloke his fault, was at laſt brought to a ſimple confeſſion. Being humbled on his knees therefore, he declared his repentance, and payed thirteen ſhillings of penalty; and acts him not to do the like hereafter, under the pain of ten pounds, toties quoties, he contravenes.

Dec. 9. —— This day Mr Henry Adamſon, and Katharine Buchannan, accompliſhed their marriage.

Jan. 1. 1621. George Dickſon verbally complained he was abuſed by Francie Scott, —— Thomſon, alias Billiecald, and certain other their ſociates, young profeſt knaves, by caſting of their bonnets at him in the kirk this day. The ſeſſion ordained them to be apprehended.

Jan. 2. Thomſon only was apprehended, and taken to the grammar ſchool, and ſcourged with Saint Bartholomew's taws.

Jan. 8. Compeared Robert Young, ſkinner, who being accuſed for profaning of the Sabbath day, in playing at the leads with his ſociates, anſwered that John Lamb, ſkinner, his maſter, cauſed him bear his lead ſtones, and play with him, and that the ſaid John having been drinking in James Myln's houſe, and playing at the dice with Alexander Gilbert, maſon, all night until three hours in the morning, at his furthcoming the ſaid John moſt ſhamefully abuſed, ſtruck, and dung him down, and left him for dead. Having declared his repentance, he was forgiven, upon a promiſe not to do the like again, under the penalty of forty ſhilling, and to pay twenty ſhillings to the poor, for his penalty, between this and Whitſunday.

Jan. 9. John Lamb appeared, and admitted the charge; admoniſhed to amend, which he promiſed to do.

Jan. 25. John Hynde, webſter, brought out of ward before the Seſſion, and was accuſed for uttering of diſdainful ſpeech againſt Mr John Guthry, miniſter, in ſaying, "that he would be unlikely to

" come in the pulpit, and that he wanted the webſter's handy work." He anſwered, that in his rough humour after drink, he ſpoke it, and that it was otherwiſe taken and trapped. On his knees he declared himſelf very ſorry for ſpeaking ſuch like ſpeeches, and offered him in the Seſſion's will, to underly ſuch puniſhment as they ſhould enjoin. He is committed to ward till they reſolve theranent. [Nothing farther was done.]

May 18. The Seſſion as yet ſuſpends Mr Henry Adamſone from exerciſing his office of public reading till ſuch time as they deliberated thereanent, and find fit time to re-enter him.*

June 18. Mr Patrick Rynd, miniſter at Dron, verbally complained upon Patrick Crie, that he had blaſphemed and ſlandered him, and his daughter, in ſaying " You have lain with my wife, and would you now " break my head; gang over to Sandy Meaſſons daughters, and aſk them what Currie Wachter had ado with your daughter." Crie denied, but the matter was proved againſt him; the Preſbytery refuſed to interfere until a regular bill of complaint was preferred.

July 19. Three pounds delivered to Patrick Pitcairns wife, in part payment of ſix pounds for the price of a board cloath lent to the communion tables, the laſt time of the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which was ſtolen.

—— 30. David Sibbald declared he had cauſed John Jamieſon and David Allan mend the tongue of the preaching bell, and that they craved therefor eight pounds, but he would not agree thereto; the Seſſion gave ten merks.

* Mr Henry Adamson was very penitent, and had satisfied for his fault, which he had fallen into before marriage, but which of late had only become public. His aged father James Adamson had been called in the beginning to attend the Session, and declare what had become of his servant woman Maige Runsiman, and who it was that was reputed to be the father of the child. (Scott.) After a rebuke he was re-admitted upon the 1st of June 1621.

Nov. 27. Adam Paterſon complained upon certain coddrochis in Dionyſius Conqueror, Notar, his cloſs, who dwell in laigh cellars wanting chimneys; wherethro' he and his family are not only abuſed with the ſmoke and reek aſcending up thro' the loftings of the houſes, but alſo are in perils, and put in hazard of the burning of their lands. He beſides reports, that men at very ſuſpicious times reſort even in the night time, to certaine of the coddrochis, and that they are reſetters of that, which unfaithful ſervants ſteal furth of their maſters houſes. Whereupon the council and ſeſſion think it expedient the ſaid coddrochis be removed, and that the ſaid Dionyſius be ordained to remove them, and not to ſet his houſes to any that will kindle Ingle therein that want chimneis.*

Dec. 3. Foraſmeikle as dilatation being made, that Janet Watſon holds an houſe by herſelf where ſhe may give occaſion of ſlander, therefore Patrick Pitcairn, elder, is ordained to admoniſh her in the ſeſſion's name, either to marry, or then paſs to ſervice, otherwiſe that ſhe will not be ſuffered to dwell by herſelf.

—— 10. Robert Allan ſmith fined 13s. 4d. for ſhoeing horſes on a Sunday.

Jan. 15. 1622. Three pounds given to Archibald Steidman for candle furniſhed to the lanthorn at the kirk door this winter quarter.

—— 24. Violet Gardener compeared, accuſed of profaning the Lord's ſanctuary in flyting with Janet White immediately after their private prayers; ſhe anſwered that the ſaid Janet had abuſed her with vile words, and that ſhe forbore the ſaid Janet.†

March 4. Compeared James Turnbull, accuſed of relapſe in adultery with Violet Henderſon. He confeſſed, but alledged in excuſe, that Beſſie Pringle, with whom he was joined lawfully in marriage,

* In a note, Scott obſerves that this order was not obeyed.

† "She was subsequently humbled on her knees to declare repentance, and was fined."

had, without any lawful cauſe, deſerted from him by the ſpace of twenty-two years.

The Seſſion ordained letters to be directed to Mr Thomas Glaſs miniſter at Cappoch, to cauſe Beſſie to confront her huſband, in order that it might be aſcertained whoſe fault it was that they did not cohabit together.

He afterwards ſatiſfied as an adulterer.

—— 11. Margaret Melling apprehended for ſtiffning ruffs and overlays on a Sunday. She denied the charge, ſtating ſhe was merely laying up ſome overlays. Being ſickly and near the time of her birth, ſhe was admoniſhed on her knees to keep the Sabbath day.

March 11. Compeared Doctor Patrick Hay, doctor of medicine, and confeſſed his ſin of fornication with Helen Cathrow, who, on his knees, declared his repentance, and for his exemption from the ward and Croſs Head, paid a double angell, and promiſed to compear on the ſtool for declaration of his public repentance when it ſhall be required.

—— 25. John Thomſon and John Robertſon are enjoined, that on the Sabbath days, they remove the beggars that ſtand in the kirkgate, kirkwyndes, and at the kirk doors,—and if the beggars will not be removed for them, to give up their names to the Seſſion, that they may take order with them.

—— 26. Janet Brown, who had confeſſed ſhe was with bairn to Alexander Chapman, having no money to redeem her from ward, or the Croſs Head, was committed to the Tower.

April 1. Conform to a ſupplication given in by James Gibſon, ringer of the bells before the Seſſion, craving a coat, breiks, ſhanks, and ſhoes, to his marriage day, and for the more decent diſcharge of his ſervice on the days of the celebration of the Lord's ſupper; his ſuit was granted, and David Sibbald maſter of the hoſpital ordained to furniſh the ſame to him.

—— 9. Which day John Fleming, baillie, refolving with the Seſſion what form of puniſhment ſhall be enjoined to John Keir's wife for putting violent hands on him, and for wounding him in the head with a pair of taings,—it is concluded that ſhe, on the next mercat day, paſs barefooted, holding up the ſame taings, in her right hand, above her head thro' the ſtreets of the town.

April 25. Compeared William Paterſon, and on his knees declared his repentance for raikleſs ſwearing on the ſtreet "by the wounds of the body of our Saviour."

June 13. Given for reparation of that part of the kirk, which was demoliſhed by the down falling of ſtones of the pend beſide the tower, four pounds four ſhillings.

July 15. Various perſons puniſhed for paſſing to Scoon on a Sunday.

Aug. 19. Perſons craving the benefit of marriage, are ordained to compear the night before the ſolemnization, and give their purgation if they have had carnal deall before the time or not.

Sept. 3. Foraſmeikle as of before the Seſſion ordained John Thomſon to give hoſpitality to the young little one his oye, and he promiſed ſo to do; and that otherwiſe, if he did not, he was premoniſhed, that an half merk of his weekly wage ſhould be withdrawn from him, and given to them that would give his oye hoſpitality; and becauſe that he has neglected to do as was enjoined, and contrary to natural pity, has ſuffered the young thing to be under ſtairs, and it has been ſeen lying objected to wind and weet; therefore the Seſſion ordain that the ſaid John be anſwered, but half an merk weekly of his wage in time coming, and the other half thereof to be given to Janet Gardner to ſuſtain his oye.

Aug. 15. Upon ſupplication made to the Seſſion for the Lady

Craigie, the Seſſion continues and overſees her abiding here, being great with child, and but lately come here for the ſpace of eight days.

Sept. 16. The Seſſion ordains the Lady Craigie to obtain Mr William Black, miniſter at Dumbarny, his teſtimonial, that ſhe has ſatiſfied the kirk for her fornication, otherwiſe that ſhe have no longer reſidence within Perth.

Nov. 11. Several wrights delated, as having made mort kiſts for the dead on the Sabbath day. They promiſed to have in time coming coffins by them ready made both for young and old.

—— 12. A baker and his ſervants are humbled on their knees, and fined for having baken on the Sabbath day, ſome manſchots for my Lord Chancellors ſupper, [altho at his Lordſhips ſpecial requeſt.]

Jan. 27. 1623. Twelve ſhillings allowed as the price of a new key for the lock of the north kirk door.

March 31. Sixteen ſhillings of weekly salary to James Gibſon, ringer of the bells.

April 15. Margaret Hormſcleuch ſuſpected of ſorcery, being warned to compear this day before the Seſſion, and not compearing, is ordained therefor to be warded.

May 5. She compeared, accuſed, if Robert Chryſties daughter at the miln of Huntingtour came to her with meal and beef to ſeek help to their cow. She denied this. Being aſked if ſhe heard that certain years ſyne Patrick Patons wife her cows milk was taken from her by ſorcery? She alſo denied this. Aſked if a poor woman that lodged with her a certain ſpace, ſought health to her ſick bairn for Gods cauſe. She confeſſed that ſhe anſwered, "Let them give her health that took it from her bairn." She was committed to ward in the tower till ſhe be tried for ſorcery.

June 2. Compeared Henry Balneaves, alledging that Margaret Hormſcleuch reſts to him of bypaſt maill, ten pounds, and offered the

cow to Mr Sibbald for payment thereof, which he refuſed to accept, and deſires the ſaid Henry, to ſatiſfy him of the furniſhing made by him to the ſaid Margaret, and to furniſh her in time coming, and to bruick the cow; which the ſaid Henry refuſed to do, but is content to ſatiſfy him for his bypaſt furniſhing, and to meet thereupon after prayers this night.

The Seſſion appoint Michael Baxter and Iſobell Lamb to the four ſhillings which Iſabell Haldane has, equally betwixt them, and continue it with the ſaid Iſabell Haldane* during her warding.

July 3. Thomas Wilſon accuſed for diſperſoning of Mr Henry Adamſon, reader, "That if he were not in the place of a reader, he "would thraw his noſe," with other contemptible ſpeeches. The ſaid Thomas replied, that the ſaid Henry began firſt to blaſpheme him, and to call him "deboiſhed dyvour," which he would take in hand to prove by Walter Balneaves and John Bloſſon. The Seſſion think it expedient the parties be reconciled, and becauſe the ſaid Thomas's offence is thought to be greateſt, the Seſſion ordain the ſaid Thomas to crave the ſaid Mr Henry's pardon, which he did, and they took each other by the hand.

—— 21. Thirty ſhillings paid for a tow to the preaching bell.

—— 24. Janet Barry accuſed for conſultation with witches in ſeeking health at them, as at the devil and his inſtruments, to her bairn. Denies, ſhe knew the women to be witches of whom ſhe fought means of health to her bairn. She acknowledges her offence againſt God and the congregation. She was afterwards ordained to ſtand in white ſheets under the bell ſtrings the next Sabbath before noon, there to confeſs her ſaid offence, and declare her repentance, and to pay before Sunday twenty merks to the uſe of the poor. Six of these merks paid to Mr

* She was one of the witches. (Scott.)

Archibald, in part payment of what he delivered on account of Hormſcleuch. The reſt put in the Theſaurey.

Aug. 11. Conform to citation, compeared Janet Jackſon, and is accuſed for conſulting with witches, and following their advice for health to her bairn, in that ſhe employed umquhill Iſabell Haldane, to go ſilent to the well of Ruthven, and ſilent back again with water to waſh her bairn. The ſaid Janet confeſſes that the ſaid Iſobell brought the water, and waſhed her bairn therewith, and that the ſaid Iſabell did it unemployed by her, and that ſhe put her bairn thro' an cake made of nine curries [pickles] of meal gotten from women, married maidens, and that it is an common practice uſed for curing bairns of the cake mark. She is ordained to compear the next Thurſday, to ſuſtain cenſure anent the premiſes.

Compeared Duncan Tawis and his wife, and are accuſed of paſſing to Black Ruthven to Janet, Witch, to ſeek help to their bairn. They confeſſed their going there; but that they knew not ſhe was an witch, but that the bruit went that ſhe could help bairns who had gotten an dint of ill wind. They are ordained to compear at the next warning.

Compeared Grizel Heſpline, and is accuſed for ſeeking help at Margaret Hormſcleuch, for the remeid of her diſeaſe, which ſhe could not deny. Continues her cenſure thereanent, till farther advertiſement and compearance.

Auguſt 19. Conform to citation, compeared Peter Gardner, baxter, and is accuſed for profaning of the Lord's day, in holding of his booth open to ſell bread, as namely the laſt Sabbath day aforenoon. Anſwered that it was without his knowledge, and that the like ſhall not be done by him, nor none of his hereafter. He is licentiate to take bread to his own houſe, to ſerve the neceſſities of neighbours, as they ſhall happen and require, but not openly in his booth; which he promiſes to do according to the Seſſion's injunction. Farther, he is ordained to ſhew

the will of the Seſſion to John Henderſon, deacon, thereanent, which he promiſes to do.

Conform to citation, compeared John Bog, and is accuſed for not reſorting to God's ſervice on the Sabbath days. Anſwered thereto, that when he may come, he does it. But by occaſion of his ſickneſs, he is lettit therefrom divers times, as neighbours know.

Secondly, Is accuſed for not communicating at the Lord's table with the reſt of this congregation. Anſwered ,that he did communicate yearly thereat, except the laſt time of the celebration thereof, that he in the meantime was deadly ſick.

Thirdly, Is accuſed upon great ſlander riſen of him, that his purſe being ſtolen from him, he uſed deviliſh means to get intelligence thereof, the time of the laſt tempeſtuous winds, which did great hurt to the fruits of the earth. Anſwering thereto, he ſat down on his knees, and with ſhedding of tears, abundantly purged himſelf thereanent, ſaying, that it was true that he wanted his money, which was ſtolen furth of his kiſt by thieves; that he purged his wife, daughter, and ſon-in-law thereanent, and beſought God to ſtrike him dead inſtantly to death, if ever he uſed any ſuch indirect methods to get knowledge of his money; but that he wants it as yet; whereupon the Seſſion, till farther tryal anent the premiſſes, remits him.

September 8. Conform to citation, compeared Alexander Lockhart, and is firſt accuſed for profaning of the Lord's day, in kindling ingill to his furnace on Sunday was fourteen days, about five hours at even. Anſwered, that it was after eight hours, and that if he had known it been offenſive either to God, or man, he would not have done it till Monday, and promiſes not to commit the like hereafter.

Secondly, Is accuſed for that he accompanied Iſabell Haldane in going ſilent at midnight to the water, and in bringing thereof ſilent, to waſh Andrew Duncan's bairn, which ſmells of ſorcery and witchcraft, and of

infidelity to the living Lord. Anſwered, that whatſoever he did therein was of ignorance, and of no ill pretence. Submitting him in the Seſſion's will thereanent, he is convicted in an penalty of four pounds.

Sept. 29. John Skinner convicted in a penalty of five merks, for roaring, going through the ſtreet with great ſhouting, and crying; when the tokens of God's indignation were upon the city, by famine among the poor, and great mortality of the people. He was fined five merks, and ordained to ſtand up in the taylor's ſeat on a ſunday before noon, and there in preſence of the congregation declare his repentance.

Oct. 30. Compeared James Wilſon, Pyper, accuſed for playing on the great pype under ſilence of night, the time of the inſolency uſed by John Skinner and his complices, to the offence of God and terrifying of neighbours, as tho' either fire or ſword had been within the town. He anſwered, that they compelled him to play to them, and he promiſed never to do the like hereafter. Being humbled on his knees, he declared his repentance.

Nov. 12. No convention of bretheren, nor excerciſe, through the vehemency and tempeſt of the weather.

Dec. 9. Compeared Andrew Gall in Muirtown, accuſed of profaning the Lord's day the time of the afore and afternoon's ſermon, the day of the marriage of John Bennet, with dancing and minſtrelſy, he and his colleagues. Being humbled on his knees, he declared his repentance therfor, and paid twenty ſhillings.

March 30. 1624. A woman ſlanderouſly reported of, endeavoured to excuſe herſelf by ſaying, that men reſorted to her houſe for waſhing and ſtiffing of their ruffs.

June 9. There is produced a ſupplication to the Preſbytery from the burgh of Dumfermling, manifeſting the lamentable ruin of that town by violence of fire, which happened on the twenty firſt day of May laſt, bypaſt, 1624, and deſiring the brethren to move their people

to help them. The Preſbytery ordains ilk brother to intimate the ſame to their pariſhioners the next Sonday, and prepare them to gather a collection to help them, and to make the ſame ready, and bring it in, the firſt Wedneſday of July next to come.

July 12. John Davidſon, ſcribe to the Seſſion, ſhewed that he had extraordinary pains anent the depoſitions of the witches the laſt year, having wrote divers copies thereof, beſides the booking of the ſame. Whereupon the Seſſion ordain the Maſters of Hoſpital, to diſcharge him of the annuals adepted forth of the lands ſometime pertaining to Oliver Makiſon of the two terms laſt bypaſt.*

* * * * * * *

March 3. 1631. Compeared Iſabell Hunter, lamentably declaring, that upon the firſt day of March inſtant, at ten hours at even, David Duff came into their houſe, and paſſed with a lighted candle to the chamber where her huſband lies, and looked in his face, ſaying to him, "That the picture of death is in his face, and that if he lived three "Sundays hereafter, he would live three hundred years." Whereat ſhe being offended that he ſhould give her huſband ſuch dull comfort, ſaid to him, "David, are ye a witch, that ye can diſcern upon life and "death, and time thereof?" He moſt ſlanderouſly anſwered, "You "and your mother have witched him to lie pining in his bed till he "die," with ſundry other ſpeeches, moſt ſlanderous, both againſt her huſband, herſelf, and mother, and againſt John Conqueror and his ſpouſe; uſing great perturbation in the houſe, and would not paſs forth thereof, until he was put forth by violence; and after he was put forth, and the yett ſteiked, he would not refrain from ſpeaking moſt ſlanderous ſpeeches, and ſo that the ſaid David had committed both oppreſſion and the higheſt degree of ſlander againſt them.

* The volume of the Register from Oct. 17. 1624, till January 1631, is stated by Mr Scott to have been lost.

He compeared and confeſſed part of the charge, but excuſed himſelf upon the ground of his being overcome with drink. The whole charge being proved againſt him by the evidence of Matthew Lamb, and John Conqueror, he was ordained to be put in ward, until he pay a penalty conformable to his offences, one half to be applied to the uſe of the Seſſion and the other half to the baillies uſe.

—— 7. Compeared William Gilleſpie, adulterer, accuſed for his miſbehaviour on the ſtool yeſterday, in laughing, when he ſhould rather have weeped. He excuſed himſelf, that a neighbour having nodded his head to him, moved him to ſmile only. He is admoniſhed to behave himſelf in that place, as having an ſorrowful heart for the ſin of adultery, as he would procure the mercy of God.

—— —— Compeared James Brown, and James Burnman, and are accuſed for profaning the Lord's day on ſunday was twenty days, in playing, they and William Arnot, at dice and cards, the time of the afternoon's ſermon. They denied the charge, and Brown promiſed to pay the Seſſion twenty pounds, if the charge were proved against him, and Burnman, that if it was, he would be contented to be ſcourged through the town.

April 25. The Seſſion ordain Mr Patrick Johnſton and Robert Burrell to paſs to Mr John Dorward, maſter of the grammar ſchool, and ſhew him that it is the Seſſion's will, that he admit not Sir John Ogilvy's ſons to come within his ſchool. [Sir John was a papiſt.]

—— —— Feraſmeikle as there is a great bruit and rumour paſſing through this burgh, that certain wives were ſeen douking, and walking on the water, beſide the Lady Bow about midnight; therefore the Seſſion exhorts every elder within his own quarter, to try the names of the ſaid wives, and the perſons that ſaw them, that they may bear witneſs againſt them.

—— 26. Five honeſt men's wives having compeared, it was laid to

their charge, that in the time of the afternoon's ſermon, they had drunk aquavytie very extraordinarily.*

May 4. Gave to an poor woman, to buy a peck of aiken bark for ſcheiring of her child of a confirmed ſtone, ſix ſhillings.

—— 16. Forafmeikle as the Seſſion being informed of the great profanities that cuſtomably are uſed at Lykwalkis, by certain profane perſons, that purpoſely reſort thereto for that effect, and that they uſe to come at midnight to honeſt men's houſes, when they are upon reſt, and knock at their yetts, declaring that certain ſpecial friends belonging to them have taken an ſudden ſickneſs tending to death, putting theſe perſons at whoſe yetts they report theſe things under great fear, and cauſing them in an ſuddentie to riſe forth of their beds, to the viſitation of thoſe reported to be in the ſaid ſudden ſickneſs, and find it but done in deriſion and mockery, tending to the offence of God and honeſt neighbours :—for reſtraining of ſuch profanity in time coming, the Seſſion have ordained that the council convene with them the next Seſſion day, to ſettle an ordinance anent ſobriety and godly exerciſes, to be uſed at Lykwalkis, and that profane perſons be not admitted thereto in any time thereafter. [No act ſeems to have been made for this purpoſe.]

July 8. Fifteen ſhillings given by Andrew Bell, maſter of hoſpital, to an north land gentlewoman become frantic thro' tineing of her huſband, burnt in the place of Frendraught.

—— 26. Gilbert Henderſon was convicted of calling the Seſſion "falſe lownes, falſe knaves, a turd for you all," and puniſhed by a fine of L. 100, (to repair the vaults of the kirk,) beſides declaring his repentance on his knees, craving forgiveneſs of God, and aſking pardon of the Seſſion,—which ſentence he complied with.

* The greatest part of the above minute is much torn. It appears from this and other instances, that about this time the women of Perth frequently held gossiping clubs.

April 30. 1632. Forafmeikle as Dumie mifbehaved himfelf the laft Sabbath day in the kirk, ufing profaneness, and thereby making tumult and commotion, making the people to have an unreverent behaviour in God's houfe; therefore he is ordained to be difpatched [out] of the burgh, like as he was for the like mifbehaviour, difpatched forth of the town of Edinburgh.

May 21. Compeared Laurence Boik, and Janet Black his fpoufe, accufed for charming. They confeffed that they would fometimes ufe fome holy words for healing of fhotts and fores, which words are thefe,—

> Thir sairis are risen thro' God's work,
> And must be laid thro' God's help;
> The mother Mary, and her dear Son,
> Lay thir sairis that are begun.

Ordained to compear this day eight days. [Nothing further feems to have been done.]

Sept. 17. Difburfed at the command of the miniſters, reported by Mr Archibald [Steedman, officer,] to an young man called Stewart, fon to umquhil the Earl of Orkney, feven fhillings. *

* This son, (who, had he been a bastard, would have been described as such,) is not noticed by the peerage writers. Douglas, in particular, states, that Earl Patrick, who was beheaded in October 1613, left no issue. What a melancholy proof of the instability of human greatness! The son of an Earl of Orkney, a descendant of James V. receiving seven shillings Scots, of alms, as a pauper, from the Kirk Session of Perth.

AN

EXAMINATION

OF THE

ALLEGED DESCENT OF JOHN EARL OF GOWRIE FROM MARGARET QUEEN OF SCOTLAND, WIDOW OF JAMES THE FOURTH.

THERE are probably few points in Scottiſh hiſtory involved in greater obſcurity, than that myſterious event commonly denominated the Gowrie Conſpiracy. Indebted as the public is to Mr Pitcairn, for his induſtry and reſearch in collecting together all the particulars connected with that dreadful tragedy, I am by no means diſpoſed to admit his aſſumption, that the reſult of his inveſtigations has for ever put the queſtion to rest. On the contrary, there are ſo many oppoſite ſtatements to reconcile, ſo many improbabilities to remove, and ſo many apparent inconſiſtencies to explain, that whether the king or the ſubject was the conſpirator, is, in my humble opinion, by no means clear.

It is not my intention to enter upon the merits of the controverſy; and the preſent enquiry has merely reference to an hiſtorical ſtatement of Biſhop Burnet, which has been recently adopted by the Rev. James Scott, as the foundation of a very ingenious theory, introduced by him in his valuable, though far from accurate account of the Gowrie family. *

* Edinburgh, 1818, royal 8vo.

Margaret Tudor, eldeſt daughter of Henry VII. born in the year 1489, was married firſt, 1503, to James IV. by whom ſhe had James V. and next to Archibald the great Earl of Angus, by whom ſhe had Lady Margaret Douglas, Counteſs of Lennox, and mother of Lord Darnley. Having divorced him, ſhe afterwards married Henry Stewart, (ſecond ſon of Lord Evandale,) the firſt Lord Methven. She died in 1541. The preſent enquiry relates to the alleged iſſue of the third marriage.

Biſhop Burnet, from the general value of whoſe works I by no means wiſh to detract, in conſequence of the few inaccuracies which may be found in them, ſtates, that "Queen Margaret, after her divorce from "the Earl of Angus, married one Francis Stewart, and had by him a "ſon, who was made Lord Methven by King James V. In the patent, "he is called 'Frater noſter uterinus.' He had only a daughter, who "was mother or grandmother to the Earl of Gowrie; ſo that by this, "he might be glad to put the King out of the way, that he might ſtand "neareſt the ſucceſſion to the crown of England."

Burnet, 12mo. vol. i. p. 24.

Although the Biſhop had been correct in his facts, his inference appears by no means warranted, as the Earl of Gowrie could have gained little by removing the King, ſo long as offſpring of his Majeſty exiſted; and it is well known, that beſides Prince Henry, his daughter Elizabeth had been born, and that at the date of the conſpiracy, the Queen was *enceinte*. The death of the King would conſequently have been of little benefit, unleſs theſe inſuperable bars to his Lordſhip's ambitious attempts could have been removed; and it is a remarkable fact connected with the controverſy, that there is not the ſlighteſt evidence attempted to be adduced by the writers on the royal ſide of the queſtion, that the Earl of Gowrie had taken meaſures to get poſſeſſion of the Queen and her children; a ſtep indiſpenſibly neceſſary, if there had been any intention either to murder or confine the King.

On the other hand, Mr Scott arrives at a concluſion, quite oppoſed

to that of the Biſhop. Aſſuming the deſcent from Queen Margaret, he very plauſibly argues that it was the King's object to deſtroy the Earl, as from the favour his Lordſhip had found in the eyes of Queen Elizabeth, he might be a dangerous competitor for the English crown. This theory, however, is entirely fallacious; and a reference to the records, will at once ſhew the inaccuracy of Burnet, and the complete fallacy of the Earl's royal deſcent.

It is not diſputed that Queen Margaret was the firſt wife of Henry Stewart, afterwards Lord Methven. The preciſe date of the marriage does not appear. It is ſtated in the Peerage, that ſhe was married in March 1526. She had, however, previouſly cohabited with him for ſome time. Wood's Peerage, vol. ii. p. 229.

Under the date of the 17th of July 1528, there is to be found a charter to Margaret Queen of Scotland, and Henry Stewart her ſpouſe, and to the ſurvivor of them, in conjunct fee, and to the heirs male lawfully procreated between them, or to be procreated, whom failing, to the King and his ſucceſſors, granting and diſponing, "pro carnali amore et "favore quos erga prefatam carissimam matrem nostram habemus, et "gerimus, ac pro bono, fideli, et gratuito ſervicio, nobis, per prefatum "Henricum fratrem germanum conſanguinei noſtri Andreæ Domini "Avondale impenso et impendendo, necnon pro nostri honoris exalta-"tione, totas et integras terras noſtras, et dominium de Methven, "cum castris molendinis, piſcarijs, ac etiam terras et dominium de "Balquhidder cum molendinis," in the county of Perth, united and incorporated into the barony of Methven. This charter is dated at Stirling in the 15th year of the reign of King James V. In favour of Lord Methven and the Queen, various other grants occur in the Regiſter. Register of the Great Seal, lib. xxii. No. 126.

Of this marriage, there appears to have been at leaſt one ſon, whatever other children it may have produced; and although this fact

has been queſtioned by many writers, there does not ſeem to be any ſufficient ground for the doubt. Biſhop Leſley, in his Hiſtory, in ſpeaking of the battle of Pinkie, ſays, "In eo prælio Scoti octo millia deſi-
Leslæi Hist. p. 487. Romæ, 1587. 4to.
"derarunt, e quibus plurimi primæ nobilitatis principes, ac in primis "Dominus Flemingus, Dominorum Levingſtoni, Ogilvii, Aven-"dalii, *Meffanii*, Ruthveni, et Roſſii, filii heredes, quos *Magistros* vo-"camus, Lochinvarius Baro," &c. As Leſley was a contemporary, he may fairly be conſidered as the beſt poſſible authority; and as, on the one hand, it is admitted that the Queen was Lord Methven's firſt wife, and that ſhe did not die until the year 1541, while it is proved, on the other hand, that a *Master* of Methven was killed at the battle of Pinkie upon the 16th of September 1547, the concluſion that he was the ſon of the Queen and Lord Methven, ſeems irreſiſtible.

Aſſuming that the Maſter of Methven was the ſon of the Queen, Mr Scott contends, that the Dorothea Stewart, whom it is matter of notoriety Lord Ruthven married, was his daughter. If this could be proved, it is obvious that, failing King James the VI. and his iſſue, John Earl of Gowrie would have been next heir to the Engliſh crown.

But the ſuppoſition is altogether erroneous. Dorothea Stewart was not the daughter of the maſter of Methven, but of his father: and it is a remarkable circumſtance that this Lady was by birth *illegitimate*, in evidence of which aſſertion, reference may be made to the Privy Seal
Lib. 24. folio 79. Record, where there is to be found, "Legitimatio Henrici Stewart, "Jonete Stewart, Margarete Stewart, et *Dorothie Stewart*, baſtardo-"rum, filii et filiarum naturalium Henrici Domini Methven, inter "ipſum et Jonetam Stewart, comitiſſam de Sutherland, procreatorum," dated at Edinburgh, 16 Sep. 1551.

This document eſtabliſhes, that Henry Lord Methven had by Janet Stewart four *natural* children, a ſon, and three daughters, the youngeſt of whom was Dorothea; and that ſhe was the Dorothea that married

William fourth Lord Ruthven, and afterwards the firſt Earl of Gowrie, is proved by certain proceedings in the Sheriff Court of Perthſhire, for an abſtract of which I am indebted to George Smythe, Esq. a member of this Club:—"4th June 1567. Removing at the inſtance of "Dame Janet Stewart, Lady Methven, liferentrix of the lands of "Bachilton, againſt George Oliphant pretended occupier thereof.—"Objected for the defence, that my Lord Ruthven is not a judge com-"petent, becauſe he married the purſuer's daughter, and therefore is "ſuſpect. The Sheriff principal declined himſelf, 7th June 1567."

"Lady Methven, v. George Oliphant. The defender propones re-"cuſative againſt John Murray (of Cluthybeg) that he may not cognoſce "in this cauſe, as judge incompetent; and that becauſe he attingis in "affinitie and conſanguinitie with my Lord Sheriff principal, who was "ſon to Patrick Lord Ruthven, quhilk Patrick was ſon to umquhill "William Lord Ruthven, quhais ſiſter Iſabel, married to John Murray "of Wallaceton, afterwards of Tibbermae, is the ſaid John Murray's "mother, and that William Lord Ruthven is now marriet to the pur-"ſuer's dochter; and that my Lord Methven married the ſaid William "Lord Ruthven's ſiſter.—Anſwered for the purſuer, that the objection "ſhould be repelled, becauſe there is no reckoning made juſtly, or in "conſanguinitie or affinitie betwixt Janet Stewart principal purſuer, "and the ſaid John Murray depute."

Dame Janet Stewart Lady Methven is thus proved to have been mother-in-law of Lord Ruthven; and as his wife was undoubtedly Dorothea Stewart, it may with perfect ſafety be affirmed that ſhe was the identical Dorothea legitimated 16th Sept. 1551; conſequently that John Earl of Gowrie's alleged deſcent from Queen Margaret is altogether imaginary. This ſingular miſtake is a convincing proof of the extreme caution with which all traditionary reports ſhould be received; for excepting the old rhyme referred to by Scott, the date of which

does not appear, the report is to be traced to the comparatively modern authority of Burnet, and of a Viſcount Strathallan, who, in certain Memoirs of the Drummond family compiled in the year 1681, commits the additional blunder of calling Dorothea the immediate daughter of the Queen.

It is only by the aid of records and other authentic muniments, that hiſtory can ever be placed upon a ſolid foundation. It is, indeed, ſingular how many miſtakes have in modern days been corrected by this authentic mode of inveſtigation, and how many accredited facts have been proved to be entirely fictitious. In verity, there is much truth in the diſtich alleged by Calderwood to have been anciently painted on a chimney-piece in the caſtle of Ruthven, now called Huntingtower,* and which may not unappropriately be introduced here as concluding my obſervations:—

Vera diu latitant, sed longo temporis usu
Emergunt tandem quæ latuere diu.

* As the Gowrie family was so much connected with Perth, a print of Huntingtower has here been inserted, from a copperplate furnished by my friend Mr David Laing.

Ruthven Castle, now called Huntingtower

NOTICE

RELATIVE TO ROBERT LORD SANQUHAR.*

The execution of Robert Crichton, Lord Sanquhar, for the murder of a fencing-maſter, named Turner, although an act of ſtrict juſtice, created a conſiderable ſenſation at a period when rank and fortune were deemed ſufficient to cover all enormities. The cauſe of the murder, and the facts connected with its perpetration, are too well known to admit of repetition;† and I ſhould not have deemed it neceſſary to trouble the reader with any commentary, had I not accidentally met with a very remarkable letter, which I thought might, without impropriety, be transferred from an old newſpaper, where it repoſes, to the preſent volume.

During the excitement produced by the trial of Earl Ferrers for the murder of his ſteward, there was much ſpeculation whether he would be convicted, and if convicted, whether he would be executed; and the public journals were filled with obſervations, principally, I am ſorry to ſay, againſt him; for, ſo far as I can ſee from the evidence, he was clearly affected with inſanity. As the execution of a nobleman for felony was a very unuſual occurrence, people began to ſearch for parallel caſes, when the ſentence againſt Lord Sanquhar was brought to recollection, and a compariſon between the two inſtituted,—although they did not admit of compariſon, as the one murder was of the moſt ruffianly deſcription, while the other, if not committed by a confirmed madman, was perpetrated by an individual evidently at the time labouring under inſanity.

* Chronicle, p. 13.

† See Wood's Peerage, vol. i. p. 150.

Among other relative communications, the enſuing letter was addreſſed to the author of the Edinburgh Chronicle; and as the principal facts were derived from a member of the Hyndford family, and preſent an appearance of truth, it will be read with much intereſt.

To the author of the Edinburgh Chronicle.

Sir,

Upon reading the ſtory of Robert Creichton, Lord Sanquhar, related in your paper, No. 145. a reflection naturally occurs to thoſe who are acquainted with the hiſtory and character of James VI. How he who in Scotland pardoned treaſons, even againſt his liberty and his perſon, as often almoſt as they were committed by the powerful and factious nobility, and who afterwards pardoned Somerſet and his fiend-like wife for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury, even after all the dreadful curſes he had imprecated upon himſelf and his poſterity, if he ſhould ever forgive them; how he, I ſay, ſhould be altogether inexorable to this young Lord, is an anecdote not unworthy of the public attention. It is indeed true, that Lord Sanquhar had taken a baſe and unjuſtifiable revenge upon a ſcoundrel who had inſolently hurt him; but to this he had been ſpurred on by his French education, and by that unlucky queſtion put to him by Henry IV. if the man who had put out his eye was alive? Every body knows that a blow given to a gentleman in France, can only be expiated by the death of him who gave it; and how much more provoking is the loſs of an eye put out by a fencing-maſter? it being againſt all the known rules of thoſe ſchools, to puſh at any part above the ſhoulder. This indeed ſometimes happens among young beginners, but could never happen to a maſter but by deſign; and ſeems to have been done in revenge of my Lord's telling him that he puſhed like a ſcholar. Theſe circumſtances ſeem no ſmall allevia-

tions of his guilt. Add to this, that he was the lineal heir of the great Sir William Creighton, Chancellor to our lawgiver James I. and whoſe authority and abilities, joined to an intrepid courage, upheld the crown during the minority of his ſon James II. againſt the overgrown power of the family of Douglas. Him our elegant hiſtorian juſtly calls *manu et ingenio strenuus;* and though his cutting off the Earl of Douglas and his brother in Edinburgh caſtle be equivocal, yet it is no more ſo than Cæſar's death in the ſenate, and the Duke of Guiſe's at Blois. However that be, his merits to the royal family were, it muſt be allowed, very great; and that this young Lord had merit, appears by his enjoying (fatally indeed for him) the familiarity of the greateſt, braveſt prince, and the fineſt gentleman that reigned in that, or perhaps in any other age. All theſe things puzzled me a little, who have the honour to be deſcended of that noble race. And I was let into the ſecret by a perſon of quality, * who was himſelf related to that family, whoſe polite learning and curious knowledge of anecdotes of this nature were known to every body.

The ſtory is this. When the Duke of Sully was ſent over upon that famous embaſſy, of which he has given us an account in his letters, King James gave him the moſt ſolemn promiſes, that he would ſupport Henry with all that vigour and gallant magnanimity with which the glorious Eliſabeth had done; and that he would enter into all the heroic ſchemes projected between them two, for breaking the power of the houſe of Auſtria, then ſo juſtly formidable to all Europe: but inſtead of all this, Sully was hardly out of England, when James made peace with Spain, and continued their dupe ever after. This entirely ruined his reputation in France. Numberleſs were the jokes, the ſarcaſms, and epigrams that were made upon him; of which that famous one which begins, *Quand Elisabeth fut Roy*, was one. In the mean

* The Hon. William Carmichael.

time, at home, King James's flatterers called him the Solomon of the age. It happened, that one day Lord Sanquhar was in a merry company at Paris, when one of them ſaid, it was no wonder he was called *Solomon*, ſince he was the ſon of David, alluding to the ſtory of David Rizzio. This Lord Creighton did not reſent, but joined in the laugh. James was told of this by ſome malicious whiſperer; and this was the true reaſon of his letting him ſuffer death. So that he was really puniſhed, not for killing one man, but for not killing another; for hearing a dull pun, which one ſhould be apt to think was not worth minding, eſpecially as it came from a Frenchman, in his own country; and beſides, if my Lord had challenged the punſter, he ſoon would have had the whole French court to have taken out, in the humour they were then in, and conſidering the rage of duelling, which then prevailed; and even at this time we are conſcious how indecent freedoms we take with foreign Kings, and what a fine time a Frenchman would have, who ſhould take upon him to reſent all the vile inſolent ſcurrilities that have been uttered againſt the King of France. But men of letters ſhould remember that Memnon, the beſt of Darius's captains, hearing one day a ſoldier rail at Alexander, ſtruck him with his pike, and told him, "You raſcal, I hired you to fight againſt Alexander, and not to defame him."

I am, &c. J. J. *

If the ſtatement in this letter be correct, little credit ſeems due to his Majeſty, on the ſcore of inflexible juſtice; and it is indeed far from improbable that the murder of Turner was deemed by James a trivial matter, when put in competition with the charge of permitting the inſinuation of the Frenchman to paſs without notice.

* The name of the author I have been unable to aſcertain.

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